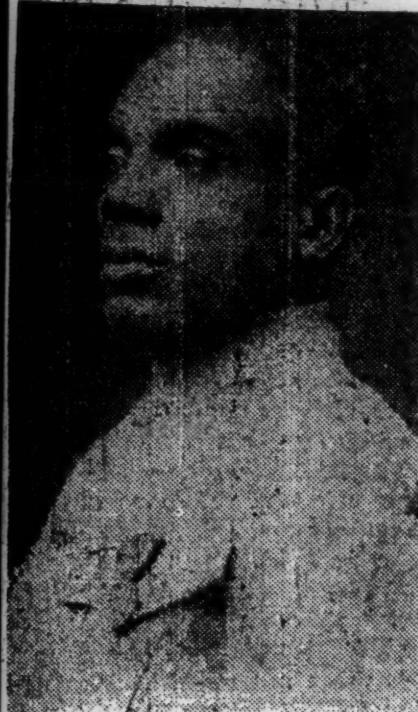


SOLDIERS- 1939  
AWARDS FOR VALOR

**HONORED**



**Award Silver**

**Star To  
Dr. Atwood**

11-11-39

**Honor Kentucky  
State President  
For His Bravery**

*Frankfort, Ky.* — As the United States is observing for the twenty-second time the Armistice which marked the end of the World War Negro heroes of that war are still being recognized and decorated for their services to the nation.

**SERGT. SAMUEL MILLER**, who was presented the Purple Heart and Cuban Occupation Medals of the U. S. Army last Sunday in impressive ceremonies in Washington, D. C. Sergeant Miller is 83 years old.

Birmingham, Ala. News  
May 19, 1939

**HONOR ORLEANS NEGRO**

**NEW ORLEANS**—(P)—An American Legion Auxiliary unit presented an American flag to a Negro school here in honor of a Negro soldier who died in the World War. It was believed the first time in the history of New Orleans such recognition was accorded a Negro. The flag was given to Xavier Preparatory School by the Women's Auxiliary to Crescent City Post No. 125 and dedicated to the memory of Joseph A. Romaine, who was killed in action.

and the additional danger of an exploding ammunition dump close by.

By an act of Congress a man cited for gallantry in action in the general orders issued from headquarters is entitled to receive and wear the decoration known as the Silver Star. The action receiving mention must have been against the enemy.



**DR. ATWOOD**

SOLDIERS - 1939  
DISCRIMINATION

# Fight Jim-Crow In Navy, Marine Corps

*Pittsburgh Courier*  
May 6, 1937

## Effort to Be Made to Amend Bill Authorizing Commissioning of Aviation Cadets in War Branches.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 4.—Efforts to integrate colored persons into all phases of the National Defense program will be shifted to an attack upon racial discrimination in the Navy and Marine Corps as Congress considers bills to strengthen the sea forces.

The law relating to enlistment in the naval service is void of any racial discrimination. But enlistment of colored persons is restricted to the mess service.

The bill authorizing the commissioning of aviation cadets in the Naval and Marine Corps Reserves will probably afford the first opportunity for a skirmish over racial discrimination in these two services.

It is proposed to add to this authorization the words "without regard to race, color, or creed" as an expression of Congressional direction to include colored men in the appointment of aviation cadets.

Adoption of such an amendment the introduction of it would serve to put Congress and Navy officials upon notice that colored citizens are opposed to racial discrimination practiced in the Navy and Marine Corps.

## Jim Crow Walks Algo-Greenan in Vets Parade

10-21-39  
WASHINGTON  
Despite assurances by Colonel Robert A. Grammes of the Veterans of Foreign Wars that the Peace for America celebration on Sunday was not a Jim Crow affair, the parade of the celebrants ran true to form, in that

invitation from the Veterans of Foreign Wars since they knew that they would be placed at the end of the line of march.

## Army Officer Admits Local Race Barriers

### Blotter Distributed By Recruiting Station Specifies Whites

Out of work? . . . Well, "A good job is available in the Army" for you.

But, don't make the mistake, if you are colored, applying at room 607, Custom House, Philadelphia. All recruits enlisted there must be "single, physically sound, WHITE, 18 to 35 years old"—according to a blotter being distributed throughout the city.

"But aren't you recruiting colored men?" the colored applicant asks the recruiting officer.

Stammering, the officer gives some incoherent answer about the "colored quota" being filled. Nevertheless, there is hope for you. You may be enrolled if vacancies exist in any one of ~~number~~ of detachments stationed at twelve distant points, a list which the recruiting officer hands you.

This mimeographed sheet informs you that "colored applicants can enlist, provided vacancies exist and they are accessible with reference to transportation."

Ah, there's the rub! If the vacancies exist, then they must be "accessible with reference to transportation." And the nearest detachment is the Army War College Detachment, Washington, D. C. Betcha your life, there are no vacancies in that detachment for which a recruit is qualified. Next point is Fort Belvoir, Va. . . . That's not so far . . . but it is an Engineer School Detachment. On and on the list goes, with detachment in Georgia, Arizona, Kansas, Oklahoma, and North Carolina. . . . And what's the use writing these distant points? Even if vacancies exist, Philadelphia is a long way from Fort Huachuca, Ariz. . . . and most certainly would be ruled "not accessible with reference to transportation."

By now, it ought to be quite clear to you that your good, old Uncle Sam doesn't want his colored nephews . . .

not now, anyhow. A little later he might NEED them . . . and he will take them, whether they are qualified, and irrespective of how inaccessible to transportation they may be.

For the present, however, according to a nicely printed blotter distributed by the local recruiting office, and decorated with the Stars and Stripes:

*"If single, physically sound, white, 18 to 35 years old, a Good Job is available in the Army."*

# Lists Specific Cases Of Discrimination In Army

CHICAGO—(A. N. P.)—Reiterating his charges that the U. S. army is filled with discrimination against Negro soldiers, Levi Pierce of Chicago who recently purchased his discharge through disillusionment after ten years of service took issue with Major Ewert of the adjutant general's office in Washington and listed several specific instances of official color prejudice.

Several weeks ago Mr. Pierce, who was an undergraduate at the University of Michigan before enlisting, wrote an open letter to Secretary of War Harry Woodring listing complaints against the army. Although the secretary has never replied to his communication, Major Ewert did release a statement which was a blanket denial of the charges made and was taken as an indirect reply to the former soldier by the war department.

In a letter addressed to Major Ewert this week, Pierce says:

"I ask you to reply to this: In the files at headquarters 9th cavalry, Fort Riley, Kan., File No. 220.6, there are certain communications from the commanding of-

ficer, 9th cavalry, to the commanding, Signal School, Forted by acts of congress. This is Monmouth, N. J., requesting that true but when the war department written examinations be forward-ment desires any situation cor-rected is exerts its influence on nlications platoon, 9th cavalry, for congressmen. The war department these members to compete for at-could, had it wished, have placed tendance at the signal school.

"I personally know that from the years, 1936, 1937, 1938 and 1939 certain members completed

and passed these examinations and as yet have not been permitted to attend the army signal school.

These members were Karl H. Speed, now discharged honorably from the 9th and who was a former student at Kan as State college, Manhattan, Kan.; Private First Class James Cotton, an outstanding soldier and one of the best radio operators in the army;

Private First Class Robert Campbell, another outstanding technician and operator; and Corporals Dor. Mosley, Brister O. Murdoch and Joseph Burrev.

"But your department did not come out in the open and say these men could not attend but evasively stated there were 'n

facilities' and 'no money had been appropriated to transport them to and from the school.'

"Why did Capt. Dana G. McBride, who formerly served in my old headquarters troop, 10th cavalry, Fort Huachuca, Ariz., answer Capt. Morris H. Marcus, adjutant, 9th cavalry, who has asked him to use his influence in getting colored enlisted students in the signal school, that he (Capt. McBride) knew the value of colored soldiers and that as much as he would like to see many deserving men attend this school there were no facilities available and since no colored had ever attended this school, Capt. Marcus' request could not be favorably considered? As you know, major in the army this means disapproved. I personally saw this

## Disillusioned

## Soldier Takes

## Issue with Major

Referring to failure to provide for additional Negro units, Pierce said:

"You state regiments are created by acts of congress. This is Monmouth, N. J., requesting that true but when the war department

written examinations be forward-ment desires any situation cor-rected is exerts its influence on nlications platoon, 9th cavalry, for congressmen. The war department

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## SOLDIERS- 1939 HISTORICAL

### A PATRIOTIC MOVE

We wish to compliment the group of patriotic citizens who are interested in having the remains of one hundred and seventy-five Negro soldiers of the 56th United States Colored Infantry moved from the Koch Hospital burying ground to the National Cemetery at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

The grave in which these men were buried is marked by a monument in recognition of their services to their country. These soldiers were victims of the scourge of cholera which caused many deaths in large numbers daily until the disease was brought under control. The record indicates that one hundred and seventy-five of these victims were buried in one grave and the monument bears the following inscription:

*1-27-89*  
"To the memory of 175 non-commissioned officers and privates of the 56th United States Colored Infantry; died of cholera, August 1866," and stands on the hillside near Koch Hospital almost hidden by shrubbery, weeds, etc.

We are pleased that efforts are being made to have the War Department to have these remains, together with the monument, moved. It is an honor that is due all American soldiers, particularly those who died in service.

Therefore, we are now asking the assistance and influence of all patriotic citizens in seeing to it that just recognition be accorded the patriotic dead.

## VETERANS GET PENSIONS FOR WAR STORIES

at Hillsboro is revealed in records founds by research workers of the Federal Writers' Project, W. P. A., who are compiling a series of guide books. After each story heard by the attentive county commissioners is the following notation: "And the said court do hereby declare their opinion that this man was a revolutionary soldier and served as he states."

## CONFEDERATES MEET IN CAPITAL

*line-headed*  
Men Who Wore Gray  
Extolled At Annual State Convention  
*4-21-39*

When in 1832, a law was passed giving pensions to veterans of the American Revolution, ex-soldiers who had moved to Illinois began at once to make application for benefits provided in the congressional act. If legal discharges from the army had been lost or never received, proof of military service could be established by a recital of incidents that agreed with information sent by government officials to the various county boards. Men who had served under Washington told county commissioners about the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, and other engagements.

How well Montgomery County veterans painted word pictures of their war days when assembled in the log cabin courthouse

rish, Montgomery attorney, in his welcoming address.

Pledged to meet "as long as two of us remain," the aged veterans, failed to break custom, and Thursday night attended a grand ball in their honor. They attended a tea Thursday afternoon.

### Reelection Indicated

Opinion prevailed among most visitors that Maj. Gen. John R. Kennedy, of Tuscaloosa, would be reelected division commander in Rock Baptist church Thursday Friday's business session, along night at 8 o'clock. The meeting will with a majority of his staff, which be open to the general public.

The talk will be one of several and chief-of-staff; Gen. Inge R. Nix, commander, First Brigade; the Lincoln brigade who are prisoners of Franco in Spain. The state Second Brigade; Gen. A. J. Steger, commander, Third Brigade, and Gen. B. A. Boatright, commander, Fourth Brigade.

"God spared you to set an example for your sons for generations to come," Parrish said. "The 1st in Spain in 1938 and was South shall ever cherish your wounded in August of that year. valiance, military science and fine He now is touring the south in the manhood. Down through the years interest of his imprisoned comrades. your character shall touch the lives of many men."

Johnson enlisted with the Loyalists in Spain in 1938 and was captured in August of that year. He now is touring the south in the manhood. Down through the years interest of his imprisoned comrades. Athens, Ala., Courier

April 20, 1939

Col. W. P. Screws, member of the Montgomery City Commission, presented each veteran a certificate of charter membership in the Blue and Gray Cradle Association, an organization incorporated "to build a shrine in the cradle of the Confederacy, dedicated to sportsmanship and intersectional fellowship." The association sponsors a North-South football game here Jan. 1. Roberts is the only negro Civil War veteran in Athens and he lives in the northern part of the city. He attended the Blue and Grey Reunion at Gettysburg last year.

### Bodyguards Attend Parley

Attending the convention were three aged Negroes. They identified themselves as bodyguards of their masters who fought in the Southern army.

"As long as two of us remain, we want to have state reunions," said Sanguinetti, sole surviving Montgomery veteran. The diminutive soldier admitted, however, that general reunions soon would have to be discontinued.

Veterans who accepted invitation: Gen. John R. Kennedy, Tuscaloosa; Gen. I. R. Nix, Deatsville; Gen. J. A. Steger, Huntsville; Gen. R. T. Boatright, Birmingham; Gen. J. E. Hewlett, Birmingham; Ransom Meadows, St. Clair; J. A. Davison, Troy; G. W. Chumley, Collinsville; Dr. C. C. Jones, Birmingham; L. M. Bailey, Hartford; J. T. Chambers, Maplesville; H. M. Bell, Fayette; W. H. Hasty, Excel; William Parker, St. Elmo; W. H. Wilson, Tennille; J. S. Worrell, Castleberry; William U. Jacoway, Fort Payne, and Gen. Paul Sanguinetti, Montgomery.

Durham, N. C. Sun  
April 17, 1939

## NEGRO IN SPANISH WAR WILL SPEAK THURSDAY

*T-286*

Mack Johnson, former Durham labor leader and the only Negro from North Carolina participating in the Spanish war, will address an inter-racial meeting at the White Rock Baptist church Thursday night at 8 o'clock. The meeting will be open to the general public.

The talk will be one of several and chief-of-staff; Gen. Inge R. Nix, commander, First Brigade; the Lincoln brigade who are prisoners of Franco in Spain. The state Second Brigade; Gen. A. J. Steger, commander, Third Brigade, and Gen. B. A. Boatright, commander, Fourth Brigade.

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April 20, 1939

### REACHES CENTURY MARK

John Roberts, colored, celebrated his 100th birthday on March 15. Roberts is the only negro Civil War veteran in Athens and he lives in the northern part of the city. He attended the Blue and Grey Reunion at Gettysburg last year.

# Southerner At Gettysburg Assails Class Animosities

*Communist Appeal*  
Senator Byrd Of Virginia Is First Speaker From South Ever  
To Make Memorial Day Address At Famed  
Civil War Battleground

By The Associated Press

With booming guns, oratory and quiet visits to flag-decked graves, America yesterday expressed its traditional Memorial Day veneration for those who died in the uniform of its fighting forces.

In Washington, the House of Representatives chose Memorial Day for its annual commemorative service for members who died within the last year. *5-31-39*

Some of the day's oratory reflected the political and economic controversies of the times.

At Gettysburg, Pa., scene of the great Civil War battle, Senator Byrd (D., Va.), the first Southerner ever to deliver the Memorial Day address there, asserted that old sectional hatreds have been replaced by new class animosities.

The unity of the country is threatened, he said, "by racial and religious prejudice and envy, hatred and jealousy between those who have accumulated property and those who have not."

Close by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington Na-

tional Cemetery, Senator Taft (R., Ohio) said "American principles have succeeded as no other principles have succeeded." There was no need, he added, for the Nation to "imitate European ideals of substitute for individual freedom any paternal direction from Washington."

In a radio address, Representative Youngdahl (R., Minn.) said that a war in Europe would be "none of America's business."

## FOUGHT FOR LIBERTY

*Afro-American 4-3-39*

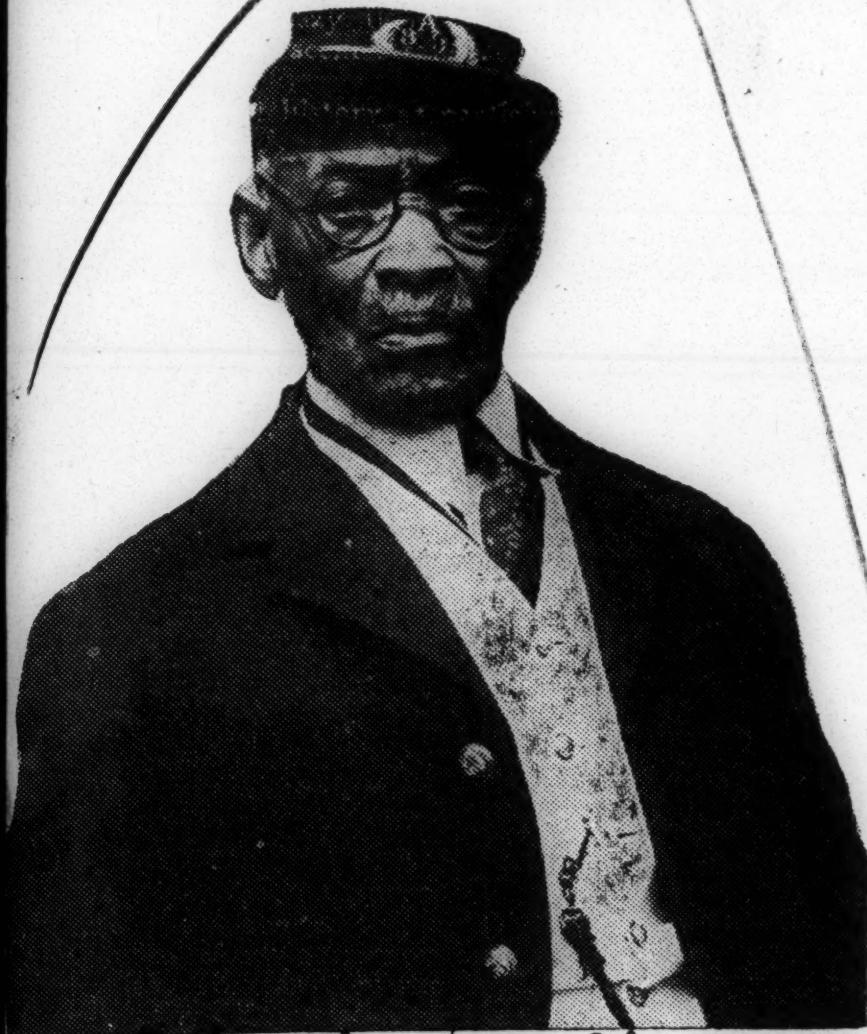


WILLIAM BOWSER,

of Philadelphia, who says that he was born on January 23, 1842, in Wye Neck, Md. He enlisted at Easton, Md., in the Thirty-ninth Union Regiment of colored troops and served two years under Capt. Samuel Wilson. Mr. Bowser fought at Petersburg, Va., and in South Carolina. He is believed to be the last colored Civil War veteran in the Philadelphia area.

SOLDIERS- 1939  
HISTORICAL

## Last Civil War Veteran Here



*Mineral*  
**TAPS** have been sounded for the boys in blue who knew the carnage of bloody civil combat with William Bowser, 97, of 7306 Heenan street, La Motte... but this Civil War stalwart looks forward to many more years of quiet activity here. *Mineral* *39*

He was born at Rye Neck, Md., on January 23rd, 1842. Bowser enlisted at Easton, Md., and was assigned to the 39th U. S. Colored Troop, serving in Company A., under Captain Samuel Wilson. He fought at Petersburg, Va., and in South Carolina. His term of service covered two years. He was mustered out of service in 1865.

### HONORING RACIAL HEROES

**MEMORIAL SERVICES** are being held this week for our soldiers, sailors, and other loved ones who died in the services of their country. Decoration Day is designed especially to honor those who served their country, but we think that we should also consider those who also served their race.

In another column of this page, Layle Lane retells the story of the 13 Negro soldiers of the 24th U. S. Infantry who were executed because they rebelled in the Houston Riot against racial persecution in the South. These soldiers should be considered in the same light as any others of the race who fell on the field of battle. They were martyrs to race prejudice and died with the hope that their sacrifice would make this country better for others of their race who were to follow.

For two decades the complete record of this tragic incident of our national life has been suppressed but truth has a way of coming to light despite efforts to suppress it. So that it is our hope that one day this record will be made public and these 13 men will be honored in much the same way that John Brown is honored today—as men who laid down their lives for a cause.

We would do well as Negroes to keep this story alive and include the names of the martyrs of the 24th Infantry, including those who were so long imprisoned, among those of our honored dead whom we memorialize on May 30.

Columbia, La. Caldwell Watchman  
May 19, 1939

### REGIMENT OF NEGROES ONCE PLACED HERE

By M. L. MECOM

March 1, 1938, the people of Caldwell parish, with others, dedicated the new, and the fourth court house for Columbia and Caldwell parish, and celebrated the centennial anniversary of the establishment of the parish.

There is little of recorded history of Columbia, but according to traditions and of memories passed along from

time to time, Columbia was a steamboat landing and the post office established before the creation of Caldwell parish, more than one hundred years ago.

The business houses of Columbia were nearly all destroyed by fire three times, the first in 1876, rebuilt of frame construction and again in 1899, again rebuilt of frame construction and again almost completed burned in 1909. Since that time the town has rebuilt with substantial brick buildings—hotels, banks, mercantile, schools, ice plant, garages and of others.

The first bridge across the beautiful Ouachita river at this point was constructed in 1905-06 at the foot of Main street; after nearly 30 years of service it was demolished and is succeeded by the present beautiful and substantial at Kentucky street.

The writer must necessarily draw from the memory of conversations had with older persons as well as his own recollections.

Before the coming of the railroad Columbia was the chief market town and river shipping point for a radius of territory embracing the major portions of the parishes of LaSalle, Winn and Jackson and the western portion of Catahoula. During this period the merchants handled and shipped by Ouachita river boats to New Orleans some 10,000 to 12,000 bales of cotton each year. Columbia was also the receiving and shipping river landing for the many small stores throughout this section of the State. Nearly all merchandise was bought in New Orleans, and shipped to Columbia by the fine steamboats then plying the Ouachita river.

The citizens of Columbia and this section of the State, men and pioneer stock, else they could not women, were of solid, substantial have subdued and survived conditions, political, economic, social and otherwise that shackled our town and parish before and long after the period of the Civil War.

The federal government kept a regiment of negro soldiers in and Garfield Goin, Peoria, Dr. J. I. Ford, near Columbia until after the Springfield, a chiropodist; Dr. C. B. Hayes-Tilden election shame, 1876, Ford, Peoria, dentist; Mrs. D. K. Jenkins, Columbia, S. C., and Mrs. E. L. Powell, Charleston, W. Va., a faculty member at West Virginia State college.

Major Ford was the lone survivor of the Tenth U. S. Cavalry and served for more than 60 years in the government cemetery service.

Recalled Meeting Lincoln,  
Grant, Garrison, Wilson  
Theodore Roosevelt

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., July 7  
—Major George W. Ford, 91-year-old veteran of the Indian wars, Monday joined his comrades in Camp Butler, national military cemetery, here of which he was superintendent for 25 years.

Major Ford died Friday at his home, 11525 South Eleventh street following an illness of several days. Funeral services were held at St. Luke's church.

Surviving Major Ford are his widow, Harriet, and the following sons and daughters: G. W. Ford Jr., Chicago;



Major Ford

He entered the regular army in 1867 and was honorably discharged in 1873. He saw service in Indian fighting, on the great plains, in the Indian territory, Kansas, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas.

When he entered the army he was one of 1,200 men that marched out of Fort Riley, Kan., 72 years ago. In June, 1938, his portrait was placed in the archives at Leavenworth, Kan., an honor bestowed on him for being the lone survivor of the Tenth cavalry.

Directed Kansas Volunteers

He engaged in numerous Indian skirmishes as a member of General Custer's forces. During the Spanish-American war he was given leave of absence from his duties at Fort Scott to serve as major of the Second battalion of the Twenty-third Kansas Volunteers, famous Race regiment at Santiago, Cuba.

He knew Gen. Nelson A. Miles and "Buffalo Bill" Cody.

He entered the national cemetery service in 1878 and retired in 1930. He first served as assistant superintendent at Chattanooga, Tenn.; then was superintendent at Beaufort, S.C.; Fort Scott, Kan.; Port Hudson, La., and finally at Camp Butler, near Springfield. He retired in August, 1930.

#### Saw Lincoln At Capital

Several times he recalled seeing President Lincoln, once while he was strolling alone on Pennsylvania avenue.

He knew Presidents Harrison, McKinley, Grant, Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt, with whom he served during the Spanish-American conflict. He was a delegate from Kansas to the Philadelphia Republican national convention in 1899 when Roosevelt was nominated for vice-president.

Major Ford was born on November 23, 1847, near Alexandria, Va. His father was a free man, owning his own farm as inheritance of West Rev. Davis, the present pastor.

The deceased, who was born at the age of five years he was in Mississippi, served in the Civil War, migrated to St. Louis while yet a young man but left St. Louis 59 years ago, thereafter residing in southern Illinois until his death.

He is survived by his widow, five children by former marriage, two stepdaughters, Mmes. Melissa Chunn of St. Louis, Mo. and Lena Campbell of E. St. Louis, Ill.

Grandfather At Mt. Vernon

His grandfather was a carpenter and wheelwright and overseer of the house of servants at Mt. Vernon.

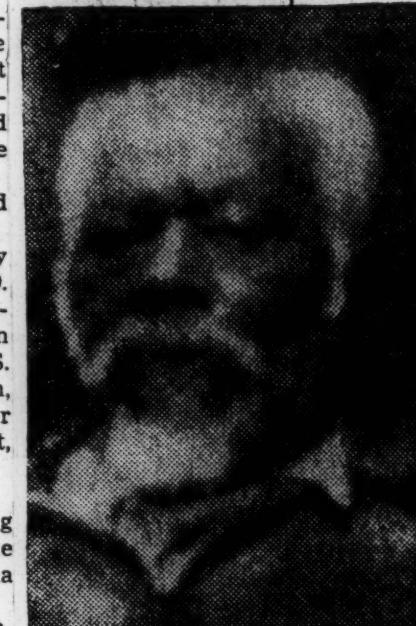
Mt. Vernon slaves were used frequently to till the soil and do the chores on the Ford 160 acre farm which was adjacent to the Washington estate.

Major Ford was a member of the Eastern Star lodge of which he also

served as an officer.

He was a thirty-third degree Mason, and was a member of the Spanish-American War Veterans encampment. For years he was senior warden at St. Luke's Episcopal in this city.

**Civil War Vet  
108 Years Old  
Buried In Ill.**



NATHAN LONDON

Last Saturday morning, July 1, Nathan London, 108-year-old citizen of Sandusky, Illinois died of infirmities of age. Funeral services were conducted at New Hope Baptist Church, Miller City, Illinois, where his name is in the cornerstone, he having been the pastor for a number of years.

The eulogy was delivered by the Rev. Davis, the present pastor.

The deceased, who was born at the age of five years he was in Mississippi, served in the Civil War, migrated to St. Louis while yet a young man but left St. Louis 59 years ago, thereafter residing in southern Illinois until his death.

He is survived by his widow, five children by former marriage, two stepdaughters, Mmes. Melissa Chunn of St. Louis, Mo. and Lena Campbell of E. St. Louis, Ill.

Interment was in U. S. National Cemetery in Mound City, Ill.

## Spanish-American War Veterans In Reunion Soon

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (SNS) —

The 41st National Encampment of the United States Spanish War Vets will hold their reunion in this city, September 10th to 15th.

Major John R. Lynch, under Commander Harmon, assisted by Comrade Harrison are making great headway to receive and entertain the visitors. Reservations have been very heavy and a large delegation from Potomac Palatine which represents 15 states will be on hand along with some of the serving comrades of the old 9th and 10th Cavalry, of Rough Riders who were under the command of the late President Col. Theodore Roosevelt, who captured San Juan.

Comrade Hoyt, has requested that all the stores, business houses, private homes, hotels and automobile owners display an American flag regardless to the size or cost. These are the boys who volunteered to fight and protect this country and won the war in 1898.

Kissimmee, Fla., Gazette  
September 7, 1939

## Seeks Pension For Forgotten Negro Soldier

Believes Allen Wilkerson  
Fought With Heroes  
At San Juan

### HANKINS FINDS TALE AGREES With RECORD

Highup Asks War Pay for  
Discharged W.P.A.  
Darky Laborer

When an aged negro described by his foreman as a "typical old Southern darky" was discharged from WPA laborers' forces here the other day, in accordance with the 18-month regulation, he protested, "I'm a war veteran and

they don't get fired, they telltude for the interest Commander me."

Hankins was howing in his case. His name was Allen Wilkerson. He leaned, still speechless, heavily and he said he was raised inly against a hoe he was using to Georgia and enlisted with a ne work about his modest little home gro cavalry of United States Vol in the negro quarters of Kissimmees at Baxley, Ga., on April 1898—now discharged from his 28, 1898, and was mustered in at WPA job—finally uttering from New Orleans on May 18 of that a hoarse chest: "White boss, I year. Immediately he departed as sho does thank you—down into a member of the Ninth United de bottom ob my heart. You know States Cavalry and saw service in Ise old and "Uncle Allen" ain't Cuba, including the battle of San Juan. Later, he claims to have But I don't want anything but returned to New York, whence he what's coming to me; I wants was assigned to the Phillipines. everything to be right." He says he saw Col. Hamilton. After hearing his narrative of Fish fall as he was killed in the movements and engagements he first battle of the war on San had participated in, Hankins said he was reporting the case to Juan hill.

His case was reported to W. G. Washington and had made application on behalf of the old negro Hankins, past Florida Department Commander of United Spanish for a pension. Meanwhile, the War Veterans, who resides here, darky having been discharged and Hankins said last night his Hankins added: "The chances are investigation convinced him that he wont' need the job a little lat Wilkerson was not only a bona-er, as he is entitled to a pension, fide soldier but is entitled to a without a shadow of a doubt, in pension and all the other prefer-my mind."

Hankins, checking authentic

"I believe beyond a shadow of records from his large library, a doubt he saw service, as I fol-said the Ninth USAV Cavalry lowed his very coherent narrative was made up of Southern negroes of movements. They coincided and the records he had obtained with the records, which I have from the Adjutant General's of checked and verified. I have taken fice indicated their movement up the matter with the United during the Spanish-American con States Adjutant General and am flict was practically the same as awaiting report from that office the forgotten negro WPA worker on the case. If the negro saw recited it to him.

Wilkinson told the former Flor-how the negro cavalrymen came ida Commander his house burned in behind Col. Theodore Roosevelt in Georgia about 15 years ago. The latter de and all of his papers were des-the right of the great rough rid-royed. He said he had told others' leader, thereby cutting off about it but that "nobody appear-the Spaniards who were about to

ed to take an interest in my out-flank the Roosevelt charge up story." He decided further ef Kettle Hill. Wilkerson says he wiforts would be of "no use."

The negro, who is past 70 nessed and took part in the cap-years, apparently has been handi-ture of the block house and saw capped by lack of education, pre-Col. Hamilton Fish fall in the venting him from keeping up first battle of the war at San with events of the times. Other-Juan, "within 30 feet of where I wise he would have possibly was fighting." The battle was so learned that he was entitled to furious, he says, he couldn't recall receive a pension 10 years ago on more minute details, but he de-proof of a certain degree of dis-clared, Colonel Roosevelt and his ability which he claims.

His shoulders bent by toil, his while the Ninth cavalry proceed-thinning, kinky hair, now almosted to occupy San Juan Hill. Southern in it fought, men in the battles of stances, and these Hankins traced San Juan, San Luis, as being correct, the latter de-Santiago, Christo, El Cabra and Pal-clared. Wilkerson also gave the name in Cuba, and at Soriano and date in May, 1899, when the other Mayari in the Phillipines. Wilkerson had enumerated these pertinent details of the discharge places as points of engagements of the men. He gave





# Black Sergeant Ignored in Savannah's Hero Manifesto

ment by the ladies of Charles-  
ton.'

By F. W. SEYMOUR

HARTFORD, Conn.—Some time ago President Roosevelt issued a proclamation setting October 11 to be observed by the citizens of the United States as a national holiday, to honor the memory of the Revolutionary hero, Count Pulaski.

*Jasper American*  
I would not say that the President, who is a profound historical student, had any political or racial motives when he reacted favorably to the pleas of the Polish group.

9-23-39  
However, I do not hesitate to accuse the President of detracting from the honor and laurels bequeathed by the citizens of Savannah to the black hero, Sergeant Jasper, and to Count Pulaski for their distinguished services at the seige of the city, October 9, 1779.

## Georgians Change Colors

In a letter to a daily, a writer submitted the startling evidence that the Revolutionary ancestors of the modern race-baiting Georgians had a spirit of chivalry and tolerance, for they recorded that Sergeant Jasper and Count Pulaski were compatriots at the historical engagement.

The writer to the daily said in part:

*Battle of Savannah*  
"Governor Cross of Georgia has issued a proclamation, setting October 9 as the day to celebrate the distinguished services of Count Pulaski, heralded as the hero of the assault on the British defenses at Savannah, October 9, 1779.

"If the research department on Capitol Hill had delved a little deeper into Colonial records, it undoubtedly, would have found, that the battle at Savannah was historically accredited with two heroes—not one."

## Historian Quoted

The writer quoted from a sketch of the siege by the eminent historian, Benson J. Lossing:

"Among the mortally wounded was Count Pulaski, the brave Pole. He died on board a vessel bound for Charleston.

"A few days after the siege, Sergeant Jasper, whose bravery at Fort Moultrie we have noticed, was also killed while nobly holding aloft, upon a bastion of the British works which he had mounted, one of the beautiful colors presented to Moultrie's regi-

"Just before he died, Jasper said, 'Tell Mrs. Elliott I lost my life supporting the colors she presented to our regiment.'

"Savannah honors both these heroes by having finely shaded parks bearing their respective names."

## Account of Heroism

Lossing's account of the defense at Fort Moultrie, June 28, 1776, when Sergeant Jasper first displayed his heroic qualities, says in part:

"During the action, the staff bearing a large flag, was cut down by a cannon ball from the fleet. The colors fell outside the fort.

"A sergeant, named Jasper, leaped down from one of the bastions, and in the midst of the iron hail pouring from the fort, coolly picked up the flag, ascending the bastion, and calling for a sponge staff, tied the colors, stuck it in the sand, and then took his place among his companions in the fort.

"A few days afterward, Governor Rutledge took his own sword

from his side, and presented it to

the brave Jasper. He also offered

him a lieutenant's commission

which the young man modestly

declined, because he could neither

read nor write.

"I am not fit to keep officers

company. I am but a sergeant,

he said."

SOLDIERS- 1939  
HOSPITALS

# QUESTION OF SECOND NEGRO VETERANS HOSPITAL RAISED BY NATIONAL MEDICAL GROUP

for the supervision of white physicians and nurses.

By DR. JOHN T. GIVES

National Medical Association

The commission on hospitals and Negro veterans to be removed from their Medical association had an important luncheon meeting at the Hotel Astor in New York city during the last meeting of the association. At that time, the commission had as guests colored physicians who are now holding important public health positions, and there was a free and active discussion of the common problems and objectives of the commission.

Information gained from General Hines' office indicated that there are two reasons for this trend, first, disinclination on the part of

the commission to provide training facilities for colored doctors who

Something of the spread of their influence can be gained by noting that the different states from which they come range from Texas to New York. In addition to several training facilities in St. Louis at members of the commission, the following guests were present:

Dr. W. G. Alexander, member, New Jersey State Board of Health; Dr. M. J. Bent, Meharry Medical

college, Nashville, Tenn.; Dr. F. F. Brown, deputy state health officer, Louisiana; Dr. Ross C. Brown, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, D. C.; Dr. John B. Hall, deputy state health officer, Illinois; Dr. Walter J. Hughes, deputy state officer, North Carolina; Dr. William B. Perry, U. S. Public Health Service, North Carolina.

The chairman has had an opportunity to advise with many members of hospital staffs during the

Also Dr. J. S. Peterson, tuberculosis physician, Puerto Rico; Dr. H. A. Poindexter, Howard University Medical school, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Clement Scott, Industrial Health Officer, Detroit, Mich.; Dr. John B. West, director, Central Harlem Health Center, New York City; Dr. Harold A. Whitted, U. S. Public Health Service, Alabama; Dr. H. Maceo Williams, director, Druid Health Center, Baltimore, Md., and Dr. Connie Yerwood, deputy state health officer, Texas.

During the annual meeting of the John A. Andrew Clinical society in Tuskegee, the question of a second veterans hospitals for Negroes was again raised. Investigations proved that the trend of the veterans bureau is entirely away from the establishment of another Negro unit similar to the one at Tuskegee. Instead, segregated departments are being added to established hospitals about the country un-

derable distances from their

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SOLDIERS - 1939  
IN WORLD WAR

# Nation's Negro Youth Wary As Europe's War Clouds Darken

*Plaindealer 10-6-39 Kansas City Kansas*  
Protest "First In War, Last In Peace" Attitude  
Toward Colored Soldiers Of World I; 1917 Draft  
Law Calls More Negroes To Colors In Proportion  
To Population Than Whites; Figures Show  
2,290,527 Negroes Registered For U. S. Military  
Service In 1917-18

Washington, D. C., Oct. 6 (By Alvin E. White)—Last week-end as colored legionaires journeyed homeward from the Chicago American legion convention, as war-torn Europe listened to the audacious, Nazi-Red partition of Poland and the Balkans, and as the revised Neutrality act was sent forth for the battle on the floor of the U. S. senate, America's Negro youth took stock of the world situation to see, if possible, what the future had in store for them.

Judging from the experience of their fathers and uncles in World war I, there was little of solace offered them, as the 1918 post-war period showed that more Negroes—in proportion to population—had been drafted for military service than whites; that, though the first in war, Negroes were the last in peace when they were mustered out to again resume civilian life.

## Soldiers Return, Find Jobs

### Taken by Whites.

They found most of the so-called "menial" jobs—waiters, porters, elevator operators, dish washers, etc.—usually set aside as "Negro jobs" filled by whites who for various reasons had not been called to the colors. They found the doors of economic progress closed to them, and in all lines of business and industry, they heard the same cry: "The whites must be taken care of first." Small wonder, then, as Europe's war clouds continue to darken and become more ominous, that the Negro youth of the nation saw but little hope for the future when compared with the gloomy past.

Analysis of the cold figures of World war I, gives interesting pictures of the part the Negro played

in making the world safe for democracy way back in 1917-18. Regardless of foreign blacks fighting for respective countries, it is well to consider the important role of the American Negro played in the war.

### 2,290,527 Negroes Registered In 1917 Draft

During the period from June 5, 1919, to Nov. 11, 1918, 2,290,527 Negroes registered for service with the United States army under the rulings of the selective service system. Of this number 458,838 were examined for military service with a total of 367,710 being finally accepted.

Other military units brought the total number of Negroes under colors to 380,000—those units being the 8th Illinois regiment, the 15th New York regiment; the 9th Ohio; the 1st Separate battalion of Washington, D. C.; the 6th Massachusetts infantry; 1st Separate company of Connecticut; the 1st Separate company of Maryland, and Company G of Tennessee National guard. Added to these were the four standing regular army units.

Associated with these troops were 1,400 Negro officers trained for service with their outfits in the officers training camps and from the regular army.

Of more than passing interest is the fact that of the Negroes examined were accepted, while of the

white 70.41 per cent were accepted.

### Georgia Leads the Nation

A tabulation of the figures of the registration shows the state of Georgia led the entire country by a large margin in the total registrations, and in the number of men in camp for the entire period.

Again, had the total male population of the United States whites been registered in the same proportion as the Negroes, the United States army would have taken on gigantic proportions—taking the assumption that the entire Negro population of the United States is only 12,000,000 to date. With the country's population set at 100,000,000, that would have meant we would have had an army of 20,000,000 men.

Thus, it is shown that the proportion of Negroes called to the colors was entirely out of proportion to the total population, and considerably out of proportion to the total number of whites called when compared with the total white population.

Another interesting item in connection with World war I is that Negroes subscribed over \$22,000,000 in Liberty bonds, war saving stamps and other thrift movements originating with the government.

The Red Cross benefitted to a large extent, also, with several instances standing out as remarkable contributions. The city of Birmingham alone, through its Negro citizens, subscribed and contributed \$80,000 to the Red Cross; Fort Worth

Negroes in one week raised \$4,484 in cash, and the Negro citizens of Winston-Salem, N. C., donated \$15,000, representing the sum raised in one week.

Conjecture is rife to the number of Negroes to be conscripted for World war II, should the United States find itself an entry in the "Death Sweepstakes." But it is a foregone conclusion that the old ratio of one to 10 as far as Negro employment in the government is concerned will be surpassed when Negroes are called to war.

Wilmington, N. C. News  
November 9, 1939

### Exit A. Soldier

The University of North Carolina this afternoon will pay honor to a Negro dining room employe, known and loved by every football player and fan of the last few generations at the hill.

He was the chap who coined the famous expression, "Step On 'Em, Carolina," that inspired many a Chapel Hill eleven to do the impossible.

"Step On 'Em," will make his last appearance with military honors. A soldier in the World war, he died in a veterans' hospital as a result of gas received in France.

He was the first man of his race in Orange county to enlist for the World war.

## Colored Soldiers' Valor Journal and Herald Compared With Treatment

1-18-39  
Principal speaker. Capt. A. Day, Jr. of the 428 Infantry Reserve, introduced Capt. L. A. Oxley, of the same outfit.

DURHAM, N. C.—Contrasts of the patriotism and bravery which typified the attitude of nearly 400,000 colored men during the World War with the indignities and intolerances they sometimes suffered were made at the N. C. Mutual Life Insurance Company's forum on Armistice Day.

The differences were recounted by Major C. H. Fearing, Sr., of Washington, D. C., member of the 428th Infantry Reserve, who spoke on "Our Contribution Then and Our Duty Now."

"I've seen them fight, die, and suffer without complaint," he said of his former comrades.

He recalled the day on which the armistice was signed and the question which arose in the minds of many: "What has this war been for?"

### OPPOSES DISINTEREST

In regards to another war, Major Fearing expressed the opinion that the colored should not remain passive to a situation which may mean cutting off the liberties of all Americans, black and white.

"A man who isn't loyal to his country in peace and war should not expect the full measure of those privileges unless he willingly gives of himself for those things," asserted the speaker.

W. J. Kennedy, Jr., vice-president and secretary, introduced the prin-

**Naacp Protest  
Legislation To  
Aid Murderer  
*Philadelphia*  
Demand Punishment  
Of White Vet Who  
Slew Negro Soldier**

3-16-39  
WASHINGTON, D. C.—A letter protesting favorable action on S. 339, a bill for the relief of Benjamin H. Southern, recently reported out by the Senate Military Affairs committee, was sent today to Senator J. Hamilton Lewis and other members of the committee, as well as other members in the House and Senate by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

For the third time in as many years, Benjamin H. Southern, a white soldier, who was dishonorably discharged from the U. S. army in 1919, after his conviction in the death of a Negro soldier in France, is seeking Congressional action to remove this blot on his record.

According to records of the case, Southern resented the friendliness of French women toward the Negro soldier, fought with him about the matter, killing him. He was court-martialed, convicted, sentenced to serve seven years at hard labor, and dishonorably discharged from the United States Army.

Three times he has sought congressional action to have his dishonorable discharge changed to "honorable," in order that he might be eligible for a pension. Three times he has failed because Negro organizations have protested the injustice.

On Monday, March 6, a bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Hattie Caraway, of Arkansas (Southern's home state) on January 5, for Southern's relief, was reported out favorably from the Senate Military Affairs Committee, by Senator J. Hamilton Lewis, of Illinois.

**To Whitewash  
Military Record  
of White Slayer**

**AGREE TO KILL  
SOUTHERN BILL**

NEW YORK, April 6.—According to returns reported WASHINGTON by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, thirty-six Representatives and seven Senators

Military Affairs favorably re-ported, Monday, a bill to white-wash the relief of Benjamin H. Southern, who was convicted in the killing of a Negro soldier in France, because he dis-liked the attention French women paid him, was given a dishonorable discharge from the army. This has prevented his ever becoming eligible for pension funds. For the past three years he has sought to have this blot against his record removed in order to get a pension, but each time he has failed.

Two votes against the bill can kill it. The bill was introduced in the Senate January 5, and approved by the Senate Military Affairs committee, in whose hands it now reposes.

**VETS' CLAIMS  
IN ALLOWANCES  
SHOW INCREASE**

**Members Discharged  
From Regular Units  
Get Adjustments**

3-23-39  
The Veterans' Administra-tion is rapidly adjusting in-creases in disability allow-ances up to 75 per cent of wartime rates or \$75 a month for men discharged from the regular army, navy, marine corps and coast guard au-thorized under the new law, public No. 257.

All inquiries with reference to these adjustments and other claims of disabled regulars should be referred to the Regular Veter-ans' Associations national head-quarters, 1115 Fifteenth Street, Northwest.

**Will Affect 27,000 Vets**

This law, introduced by Senator Schwartz and sponsored solely by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Regular Veterans' Association, will affect 27,000 disabled regu-lars. It was passed at the last session of Congress.

Leroy P. Chittenden, education-al director of the RVA, announced that the association will sponsor the fight for an increase in allow-ances for dependents of deceased regulars to equal those paid de-nendants of war veterans.

(Scott's Official History, pp. 257, 258). When these two men after the war met Negro audiences, they were but ordinary appearing Negroes, representative of our mass Negro types.

## BLACK SOLDIERS IN FRANCE

stress. They had to unload millions of pounds of ammunition, blankets, boots, supplies of ice, gasoline, horses and mules, and their supplies. Most of these men first American troops appearing had never seen a ship. Working in France were black. The French in the hold of a ship in August people were stunned with surprise was not the easiest job in the and there was no little fear. That army. Morning, noon and night, such troops could come from America, none, could believe to be seen marching bravely to their eyes. That evening the ice difficult tasks.

was broken and little French children were to be seen in the arms of huge Negroes. Very quickly it was seen that there was nothing savage in them. French babies pressed their cheeks to necks of ebony. Their mothers looked on and approved.<sup>31</sup> In the heart of the French is not the prejudice of other Aryans.

"One could not find more faultless soldiers in their bearing, in manner or more affable and more delicate than these children of the sun, whose ancestors dreamed under the wonderful nights along murmuring streams. We admired their forms, handsome, vigorous, athletic; their intelligence, and their loyal faces with their large gleaming eyes with a bit of sadness in them. Now a Frenchman honors himself to have them at his table. He spends long hours in talks with them. Now when these soldiers who have been our friends depart, here and there tears fall and when the heavy trucks roll away in the morning a veritable sadness seizes us." How different these words of a Frenchman sound!

They were looking at black soldiers without the eyes of prejudice. The populations of some French villages followed the jazz bands to the next hamlet, weeping to see them go. Could these men fight as well as make music? Four whole regiments were awarded the Croix de Guerre, the 365th, the 369th, the 371st and the 372nd. The criticized 92nd division, that officers said would never make a charge, in the drive at Metz, went into action through a valley commanded by machine guns. They held the Germans at bay while white regiments retreated, but not until they had suffered heavy loss.

The colored stevedore regiments broke all records in handling stores. They reveal to us what is the real nature of the Negro in

The old 15th New York was one of the first of the allied armies to reach the River Rhine. They were under fire for a greater number of days than any other American regiment. They never partment, said that they were the only regiment of the regular National Guards against whom no complaint was filed by civilians. The 370th and the 8th Illinois, with a complete complement of colored soldiers, lost only one prisoner, captured many cannons and German machine guns. They participated in the last final drive, capturing a German wagon train of 50 wagons and crews. This proud regiment refused to fraternalize with the Germans after the armistice. The 371st made splendid fighters, shooting down three Boche airplanes "on the wing."

Negro soldiers rendered this kind of service in face of the fact that American white troopers did many things to turn the favor of the Frenchmen from colored troopers. There was brutal treatment at training camps often on the part of the military police. Colored soldiers suffered confinement sometimes for long periods for minor infractions of rules, sometimes from failure to meet unreasonable demands. There was often lack of proper medical attention for the colored soldier. French African soldiers received the same identical treatment of Frenchmen. They were applauded as they marched through the streets.

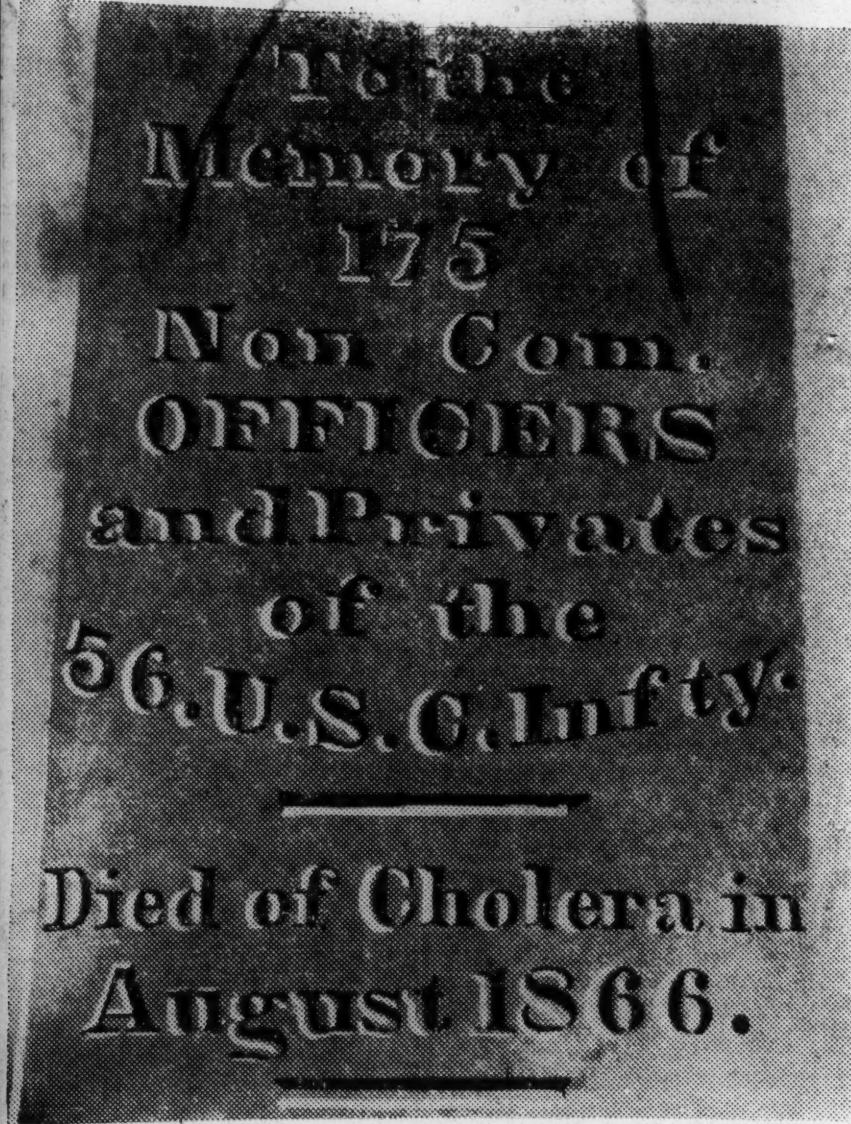
After the heroic service of the colored troopers, they were very slowly discharged from the labor battalions after the armistice. In the training camps were no sanitary conveniences for bathing, barracks, or mess halls. At camp Alexander, Va., the winter of 1917-18 from insufficient clothing, and bedding the men died like sheep, many starving to death.

Then the Germans rushed the post. The boys waited coolly until they were in striking distance. Johnson opened fire and Roberts from the ground threw hand grenades. They inflicted great loss upon the enemy who carried Roberts away, but Johnson with his bolo knife laid about him right and left, forcing them to release Roberts who again threw hand grenades. The Germans picked up their dead and slunk away.

SOLDIERS- 1939

MONUMENTS AND OTHER COMMEMORATIONS

## A Monument to Negro Soldiers



geant-Major James Woods, Quartermaster Sergeant Leo Washington, Quartermaster Sergeant Solomon McQuay.

It is said that the Negro soldiers of the 56th U. S. infantry were those who contributed the first money to build Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Mo. Anyone having information to substantiate this statement will please communicate with the editor of the Argus.

An effort is being made to have the above monument, with the remains of the buried soldiers, removed to a national cemetery.

Almost hidden at the bottom of a hillside on a slope of woods, west of Koch's Hospital, is a monument with this inscription: "To the memory of 175 non-commissioned officers and privates of the 56th U.S.C. Infantry. Died of cholera in August 1866."

Behind these words is an interesting story of how colored soldiers in the 11th Infantry; Major Henry A. Wells; who had volunteered their 1st Lieut. and R.G.F.M. Trobee; services in what was known as Surgeon D. A. LaTeres; Assistant Surgeon James Sykes; 1st Lieut. and Adjutant S. I. Clark, of African Descent, saw service in Arkansas in July, 1864, and 1st Brevet Captain, U. S. Volunteers, were known for their ability to stand against cholera which had taken the lives of thousands of white soldiers.

Upon their return to St. Louis, 175 of their dead comrades were buried as above stated, and the men took their own money and had this monument erected.

In the roster of officers and non-commissioned officers were the following: Col. Charles Benzon, Brevet Lieutenant U. S. follows: Benjamin Owensby, Ser-

James W. Thomas, Daniel B. Barker, Otto R. Sensibaugh, Wm. H.

Olaymes; 1st Lieutenants James R. Murphy, John L. Abel, Leo W.

Crunch, Charles Sherman, Eugene

O. Cooms, Solomon Godfrey, Law-

son A. Campbell, Julius S. War-

dee and E. Smith. The non-com-

missioned colored staff were as

follows: Benjamin Owensby, Ser-

SOLDIERS - 1939  
NATIONAL GUARDS

## \$10,000 APPROPRIATED FOR MICH. NATIONAL GUARD UNIT

*labeled 31*  
DETROIT, Mich. June 3. (UNP) — Ten thousand dollars was appropriated by the Senate Finance Committee last Friday to start a Negro Infantry unit of the Michigan National Guard, carrying out a resolution introduced in the senate by Senators Charles C. Diggs and Ludington, it was disclosed this week.

### NATIONAL GUARD FOR NEGROES ADVOCATED

*labeled - 17-39*  
(The Associated Press) Philadelphia, Sept. 9. Equal opportunities and increased enrollment for negro citizens in national units was urged today at the closing business session of the National Baptist convention.

Birmingham, Ala., was chosen the 1940 convention city.

Resolutions advocated the formation of a negro National Guard regiment in "the 30 states of the Union where the negro population warrants such action" and provision for civil aeronautic training schools for negro pilots and officers in the United States Army air corps.

The convention further urged a billion-dollar appropriation by Congress to speed employment on "WPA, CCC, NYA and other emergency, private or public jobs."

Edgar Brown, president of the United Government Employes Inc., said he would invite negro representatives from 34 states to seek an audience next week with President Roosevelt to present their views on neutrality and national defense.

### THE NATIONAL GUARD

*labeled 31*  
The approval of a \$10,000 appropriation by the Michigan Senate Finance Committee to start a Negro infantry unit of the National Guard in that State is an action which all will commend, and an indication of what can be accomplished elsewhere, albeit \$10,000 is insufficient.

It is most difficult for Negroes to bring to bear enough pressure to force the anti-Negro clique controlling the Army and Navy to open the door of opportunity in the Federal forces.

It is far less difficult for Negroes to force certain States where they have a balance of political power to open the National Guard to them.

So far there are Negro National Guard units in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Ohio and Illinois, but they are all infantry units and altogether do not total more than three regiments.

From all other branches of the National Guard, such as coast artillery, field artillery, engineers, cavalry, tank corps and air service, Negroes are so far barred.

There should be Negro infantry regiments in Missouri, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Tennessee, and at least one battalion each in California, Oklahoma and Delaware.

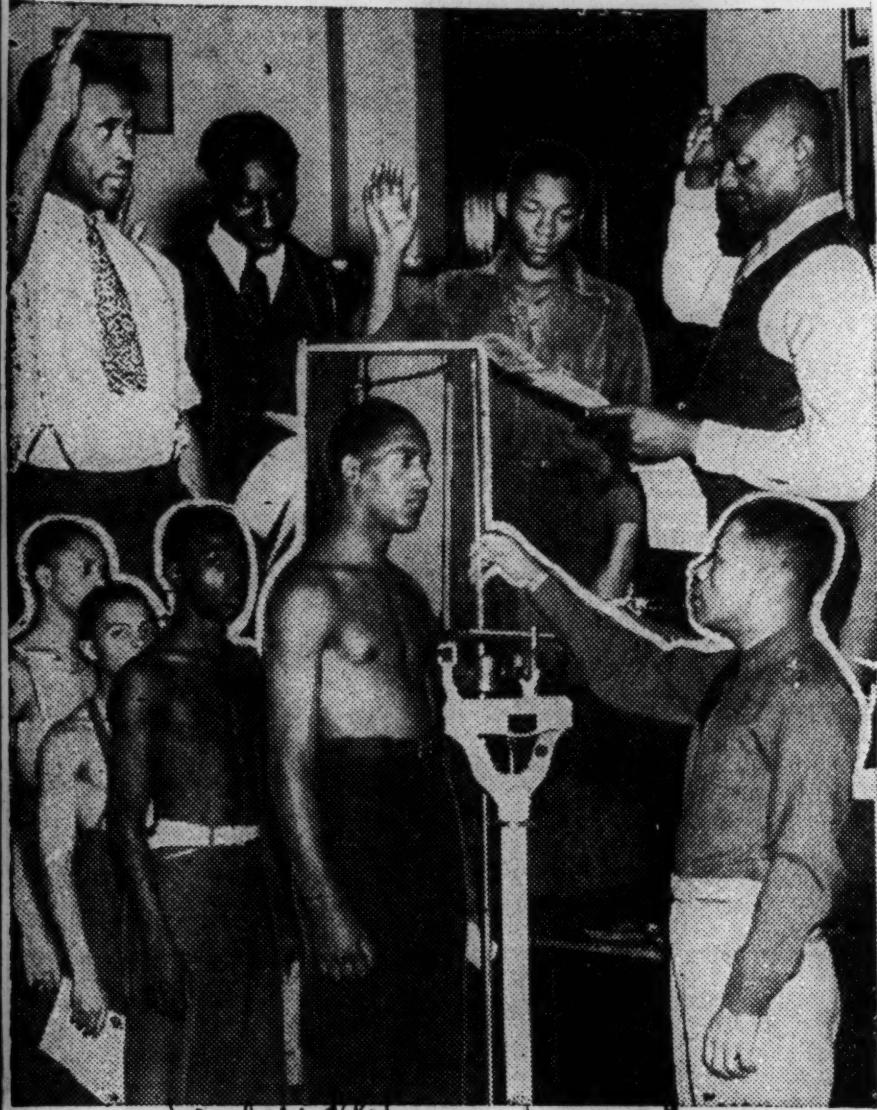
*labeled 6-17-39*  
In New York, Illinois and Pennsylvania, there should be units of other services, and the infantry battalion in New Jersey should be increased to a regiment.

All these things can be brought about because Negroes have the vote in those States and it is a powerful factor in every election.

The National Guard, like the Federal Army and Navy, is supported out of public funds to which Negroes like other citizens are forced to contribute every time they turn around.

*labeled 6-17-39*  
If the training and privileges afforded by military service are of value, and it is generally agreed that they are, then we not only ought to have them but we should make sure that we get them.

## RECRUITS FLOCK TO EIGHTH



them may be authority for units of the colored race.

*Rehearsal* 11/4/39  
The recruiting section of the Eighth Infantry, Illinois National Guard, is doing a land office business these days in hurried efforts to bring the man power of the regiment to full peace time strength as ordered by the War Department. Upper photo: First Lieut. John P. Meadows, (extreme right) recruiting officer, is shown swearing in group of newly enlisted men. Below: First Lieut. Roosevelt Brooks, medical corps, is pictured recording the height and weight of recruits. Harold Stewart—Gushiniere photos.

## WANTS NEGRO MO. NATIONAL GUARDS

### NAACP Quizzes Adjutant General On 'Increase'

Adjutant General Means of the Missouri National Guard in replying to a letter from President Sidney R. Redmond of the St. Louis Branch of the NAACP inquiring concerning the effect on Negroes of the new order increasing the size of the Missouri National Guard, stated that the enlargement applied to white enlistees only. The NAACP has been leading a movement for the establishment of a Negro National Guard unit in Missouri.

President Redmond in his letter said in part:

"You are going to enlist something like 200 men from St. Louis and we see to take this means of asking you if the applications of Negroes will receive favorable consideration."

The Adjutant's reply said in part:

"Allotment to Missouri was for increase in personnel of the present organized units, and no allotment was made to Missouri for new units. I hope for the sake of you people that some day additional allotment will be made to Missouri, and that among

SOLDIERS- 1939  
NATIONAL GUARDS, ETC.

# Appeal To Ill. Governor For National Guard Troops As 70 Colored Strikers "Take" Plant

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch  
November 30, 1939

Pickets Joined  
By 200 Others  
Offering Help

No Room for Negro Guard Unit  
Adjutant-General Announces

Deputy Sheriff Killed  
In Melee; Strikers  
Members Of AFL

CAIRO, Ill.—A demonstration by 70 Negro workers at the Roberts Cottonseed Oil plant who went on strike for a closed shop and higher wages, last Wednesday, resulted in the death of a deputy sheriff and an appeal to the Governor for National Guard troops.

The situation became so tense that the Sheriff was told to deputize all the white men in town, if necessary, to preserve order. It was said that the Governor would send troops if local and highway police and deputized citizens were unable to control the situation.

**Protest Armed Action** The appeal to the Governor came after a crowd of about 200 Negroes joined the picket line, protesting arm-for-ed action against the strikers. Some of the pickets were said to be em-ployees of the nearby Cairo Meal and the Cake company which is also owned by the Roberts firm. The meal com-pany has 150 Negro employees.

Simultaneous strikes for a closed shop and higher wages were started by both plants, last Saturday night. The workers are members of a union affiliated with the American Federa-tion of Labor.

The slain man was Fletcher Reich-ert, 29, of Charleston, Mo., who with his father, a Missouri stock raiser, attempted to get into the cottonseed oil plant. The son was shot as he attempted to drive his car past the bar-ricade set up by pickets. The father was chased away, but not injured.

Commenting on the move in Virginia to set up a Negro National Guard unit, Adjutant-General S. Gardner Waller said yes-terday there is no room for this or any other organization in the Guard in this State at present.

He said he has received from a number of communities of the State asking that military units formed by them be admitted to the National Guard, but that no organization can be taken in until the War Department increases the Virginia quota.

#### Would Provide Room

Lieutenant D. Vincent Estill, Infantry Reserve, United States Army, was in Richmond from South Boston last week to confer on plans to organize the Negro unit.

If the War Department should increase the Virginia strength to a peacetime basis, General Waller

explained, it would boost the membership by approximately 50 per cent and would provide room for several more organizations.

This possibly would make way for the Negro unit and a number of the other units now awaiting ad-

mission:

General Waller reported that the recent 25 per cent enrollment increase ordered by the War De-

partment has been filled almost completely. This provided for the

addition of 591 men.

The workers are members of a union

affiliated with the American Federa-tion of Labor.

The slain man was Fletcher Reich-ert, 29, of Charleston, Mo., who with his father, a Missouri stock raiser, attempted to get into the cottonseed oil plant. The son was shot as he attempted to drive his car past the bar-ricade set up by pickets. The father was chased away, but not injured.

SOLDIERS- 1939  
NATIONAL GUARDS, ETC,

## GUARDSMEN ATTEND NATIONAL MEETING



Afro-American 11-4-39 Baltimore, Md.

Guard officers in Baltimore for National Guard Association of United States here, last week. Left to right are Col. William J. Warfield, commander of Eighth Battalion, Maryland National Guard; Illinois Infantry, Major Alexander R. Davis, commander of 372nd Battalion, Boston, Mass. Capt. William Creigler, and Lieut. Leroy Clay, Maryland National Guard.

## Seeks Colored National Guard Unit In W. Va.

*future*  
State Teachers Group  
Sponsoring Movement  
Thruout Section

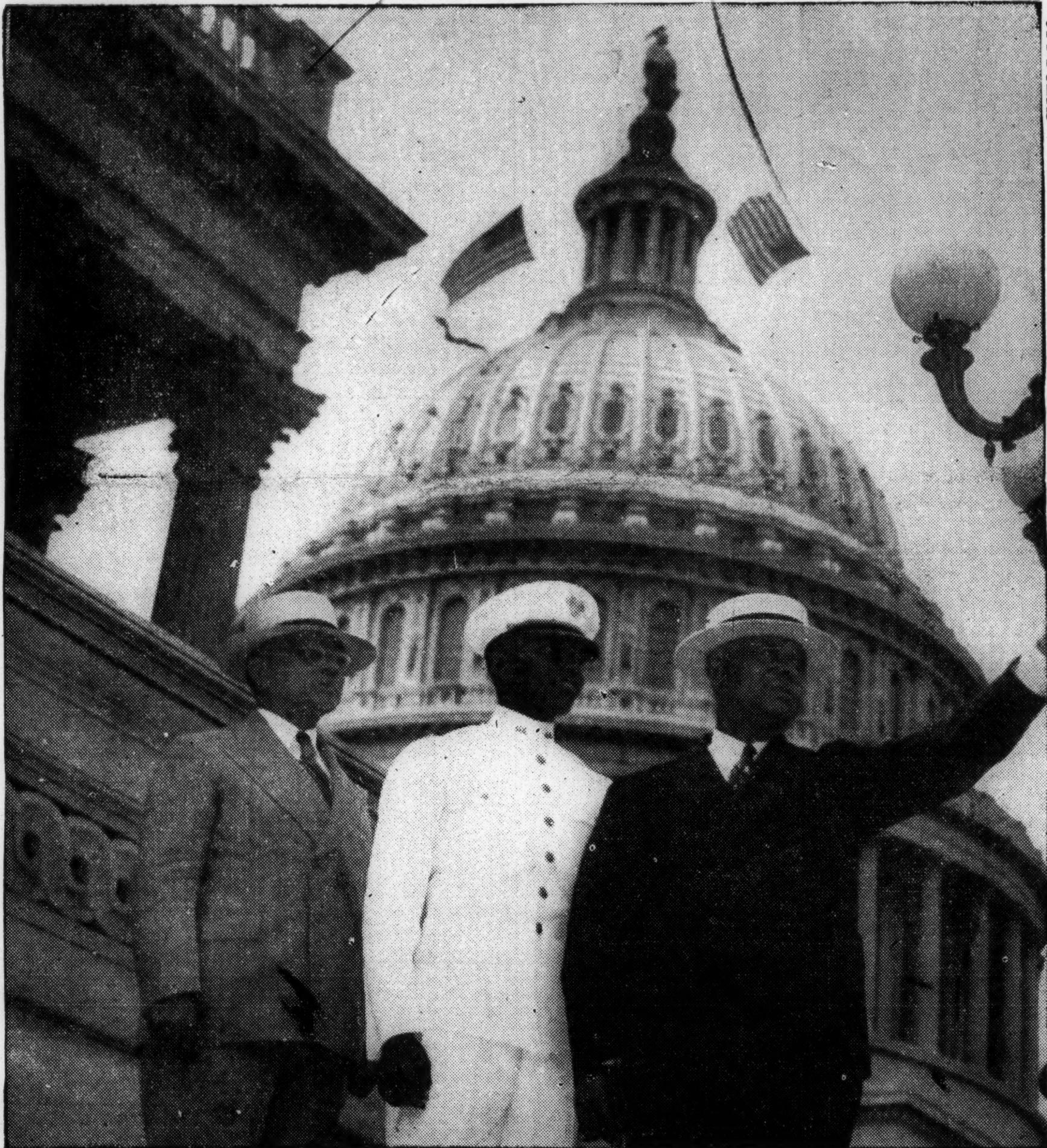
11-9-39  
CHARLESTON, W. Va.—Meeting in its forty-eighth annual session, last week, the West Virginia State Teachers' Association resolved that the association would continue its efforts to bring about the establishment of a Negro National Guard Unit and a senior unit of the S. A. T. C. in West Virginia. Miss Mary L. Williams presiding.

*Philadelphia*  
Newly elected officers are: H. D. Hazelwood, principal of Douglass High School, W. Va., president; Richard Brown, Bramwell, first vice-president; Mrs. Lucy McGee Fountaine, Huntington, second vice president; Leonard Barnett, principal of Washington High School, London, executive secretary; J. E. J. Clark, principal of Garnet High School, Charleston, treasurer; and H. L. Dickason, president of Bluefield State Teachers, historian.

Elected to the Board of Directors were: J. Douglass Anderson, principal of Genoa High School, Bluefield, and Bruce H. Hull, principal of Simmons High School, Montgomery.

Three veteran teachers: G. W. Boyd, Charleston; S. H. Guss, Institute; and J. Rupert Jefferson, Parkersburg, were made life members of the association and awarded certificates in recognition of years of service. Miss Mary L. Williams presiding, made the awards.

# As Only Race West Pointer Inspected Nation's Capitol



*Handy Ward 6-18-39*

James D. Fowler of Chicago, only Negro cadet in the United States Military Academy at West Point, N. Y., is shown at the Capitol during his visit to Washington, D. C. With Cadet Fowler, who is in his third year at the school, are Lieutenant-

Colonel H. O. Atwood, United States Army, left, and Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell of Illinois, who appointed Cadet Fowler. Two others will be appointed to the academy this year, Mr. Mitchell recently announced. (INP).

SOLDIERS - 1939  
OFFICERS

Colored Youth  
To Enter West  
Point July 1st  
Robert Tressville, Army  
Officer's Son, Passes  
All Examinations



ROBERT B. TRESSVILLE, JR.

Having passed all examinations for admission to the United States Military Academy at West Point, Robert Bernard Tressville, Jr., 17-year-old son of an army officer at Fort Benning, Ga., will enter the Academy on July 1.

Nominated for the appointment on March 20, 1939, by Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, of Chicago, Tressville will specialize in technical aviation at West Point.

A graduate of Germantown High School, Tressville, who is six feet and weighs 170 pounds, was one of the outstanding athletes in the history of the school. He was a star member of the championship tennis team, a pole vaulter on the track team and an expert swimmer.

Tressville entered Penn State College after a six-months' college preparatory course. During his freshman year at Penn State he was one of the high ranking students.

Technically appointed from Illinois, Tressville lives with his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Tressville, 6502 Musgrave street, Germantown, Tex. He was born in Galveston, Tex., and moved to Philadelphia five years ago to attend school in the North. His

father is leader of the Fort Benning band and has been in the army service 28 years.

## Lieutenant Davis Gets Promotion

LIEUT. DAVIS  
IS PROMOTED

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—(SNS)—Announcement of the promotion of Second Lieutenant B. O. Davis, Jr., Professor of Military Science and Tactics at Tuskegee Institute to First Lieutenant, Infantry, was received here by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, in an official Special Order from the Secretary of War, War Department, Washington.

Upon his graduation from West Point in 1936 Lieut. Davis was assigned to the 24th United States Infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia.

He was relieved from duty at Fort Benning upon the completion of two years service and assigned to duty at Tuskegee Institute as P. M. S. and T.

The cadet regiment under Lieut. Davis has reached a high degree of efficiency and was commended in orders from the War Department following inspection by Colonel H. R. Richmond, R. O. T. C., officer, Fourth Corps Area, Atlanta, Georgia.

*Lieut. Davis  
Is Promoted  
At Tuskegee*



B. O. DAVIS, JR., professor of military science and tactics at Tuskegee Institute, whose promotion from second

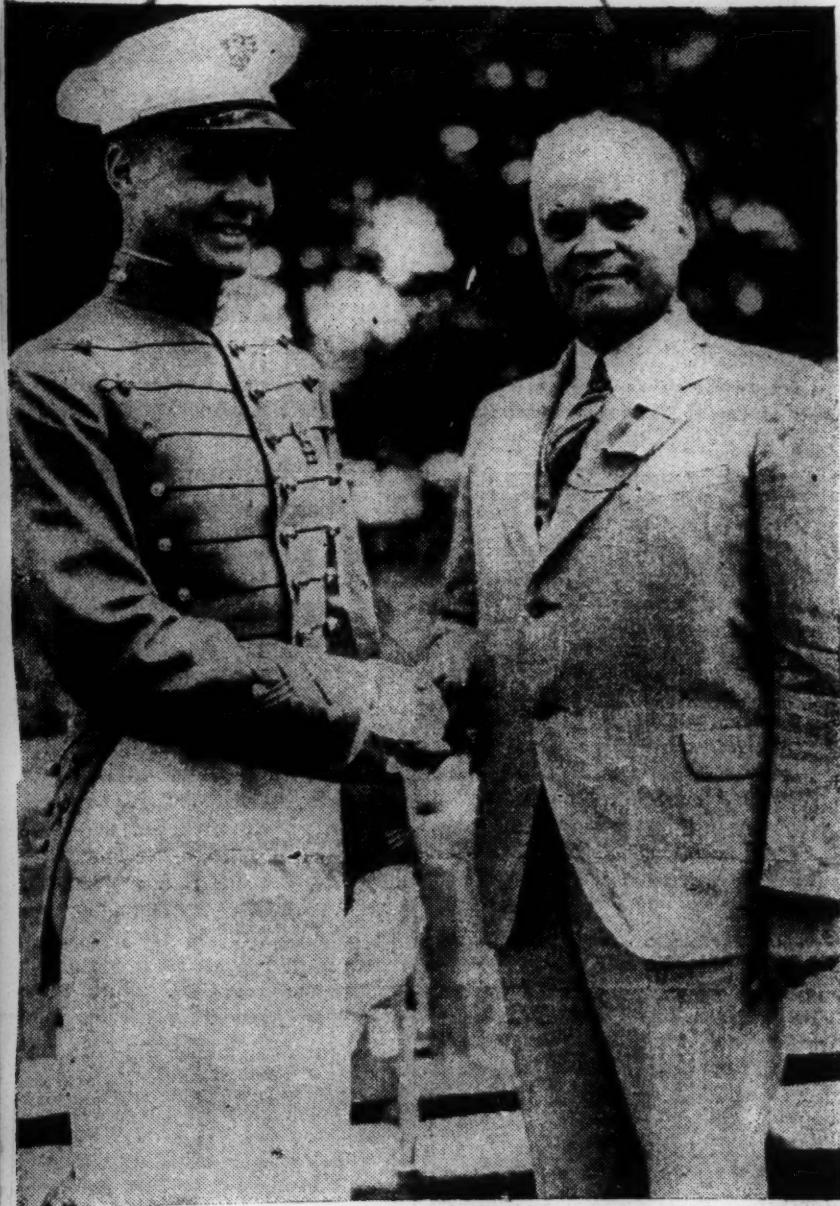
lieutenant to first lieutenant, Infantry, was announced to President F. D. Patterson, this week, in a special order from the Secretary of War, War Department, Washington. Upon his graduation by Dr. F. D. Patterson, in an official Special Order from the Secretary of War, War Department, from West Point in 1936, Lieutenant Davis was assigned to the Twenty-fourth Infantry at Fort Benning, Ga. At the end of two

years he was assigned to Tuskegee. His cadet regiment was recently commended following inspection by Col. H. R. Richmond, United States Infantry at Fort Benning, Ga. He was relieved from ROTC officer of the Fourth Corps Area, Atlanta.

Upon his graduation from West Point in 1936, Lieut. Davis was assigned to the Twenty-fourth Infantry at Fort Benning, Ga. He was relieved from ROTC officer of the Fourth Corps Area, Atlanta.

COLLEGES- 1939  
OFFICERS

## They Figure In War News



LIEUT. B. O. DAVIS, JR., AND COL. B. O. DAVIS, SR.

**Lieut. Davis May**  
Daily World 9-25-39  
**Direct Officers'**  
Atlanta, Ga.  
**Training School**

By ROBERT M. RATCLIFFE

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—America will enter the present European war within the next six months if the war lasts that long. That appears to be the general opinion of most of those affiliated with Tuskegee Institute.

Another opinion is that Lieutenant B. O. Davis, Jr., who was graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1936, will be in charge of, or connected with an officers training school which would be set up here should this country find it necessary to engage in the new war.

Lieut. Davis, Jr., has had headquarters at Tuskegee since the fall of 1938. Before coming here, he was at Fort Benning.

One observer pointed out that Tuskegee has a wealth of material which would be welcomed by an officer's training school. There are several former CCC boys enrolled at the institute who would make good officers, it was revealed.

Although the older minds on the campus are thinking of war, there have been very few opinions expressed by the male students here who are under military training from the time they begin and complete their educational work at Tuskegee.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, expressed his opinion on the current war situation in an Associated Negro Press story this week. He said America will enter the war if it lasts a year.

Dr. Patterson was quoted by ANP as favoring an all-Negro army division.

## Only Two Negro Officers



COL. BENJAMIN O. DAVIS and his son, LIEUT. BENJAMIN O. DAVIS JR., the only two Negro line officers in the regular army. There are 14,000

white officers. This is pointed out in an open letter written to Secretary of War Harry H. Woodring by Levi P. Price, a former Ninth Cavalryman (Story in adjoining column).

## Nipping In The Bud Some Army Injustices

QUITE NATURALLY there would arise some discussion during this conflict in Europe, which in time, may imperil our own country, of a colored commissioned officer to take charge of military functions along with other regular commissioned officers of the army and navy. It was Crispus Attucks, a brother in black, who spilled the first blood for the American cause. Since that time black men have poured their life blood out on a thousand battle fields in this country for the common cause. In the last great conflict, they left their native soil to fight in a foreign land in an effort to establish the light of liberty.

There is only one such man in our whole group who could take a command. That man is Lieutenant Benjamin Q. Davis, Jr. now stationed at Tuskegee Institute. In the scheme now prevalent in the army as we know it, there must have been great rejoicing on the part of his brother officers that the lone Negro who could take command in the army, has been practically removed from the army.

Lieutenant Davis should be in the army where he belongs and where he could render his race a worthwhile service in not only gaining that experience obtained at first hand in elbowing among his fellow officers, but in breaking down much of that caste and prejudice now in vogue as obtains in the relationship of the army and navy toward the Negro.

Lieutenant Davis is not to blame for this condition, he must obey orders, but the colleges are to blame. In this case, Tuskegee. The colleges apply to the war department for an officer, in this particular case, by name sent to the school to train a bunch of students and the war department complies. The training he gives is confined to drilling, at such times as the students are not otherwise occupied. Its kind and amount is necessarily limited and is more for show than anything else and is a soft snap for an unambitious officer.

If Lieutenant Davis himself realized what is happening and his duty to himself, his regiment and his people, he would apply at once to be relieved and to return to his company and regiment. The colleges should be made to see the wrong they are doing in taking him from his military duties and should cease to apply for a task which any Sergeant could do. The better way would be for the schools to have a sergeant do this drilling and each year ask the war department to send an officer to inspect and report on conditions.

This is not the first instance such as this was tried...An effort was made back in 1877 when Lieutenant Henry O. Flipper, graduated at West Point, to nullify a Negro officer by placing him in some school; just as Davis has been placed.

The young Lieutenant Flipper was then stationed at Fort Sill, Indian Territory, now Oklahoma and in his stern manhood and interest in his race was able to thwart the scheme by getting the school to withdraw its application and remained with his company, much to the chagrin of those who hatched up the scheme of placing Negro officers in schools, in an effort to perpetuate a plan of nullification and keeping them away from their commands.

The Negro press could render no better service than rising up as one man in this crisis and demand that Lieutenant Davis be

returned to his company where he can be gaining first hand experience in elbowing among his fellow officers so that when the storm breaks, we will have one man we can go to the President and demand that he be placed in command.

## PHILLY CADET PUTS O. K. ON WEST POINT

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 7—During his recent visit here to attend the Army-Navy football game, Robert Tressville, 18-year-old first term cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point, declared that life at the academy was "ideal."

Tressville, a graduate of Germantown High school and a Philadelphia district tennis champion, stated at the home of Mrs. Virginia Tressville, of 6502 Musgrave street, a relative with whom he makes his home, that he had nothing but commendation for the treatment and general routine at the institution. Well over six feet in height and with rapidly broadening shoulders, Tressville makes an imposing cadet. He expects to vie for West Point sports teams, he said.

Among the visits he made before returning to West Point Saturday night at 9 o'clock on a special train, was one to the Rev. E. Sydnor Thomas, rector at St. Barnabas church, whom Tressville says supplied him with the spiritual stimuli and encouragement, to batter down the opposition to gaining his appointment.

SOLDIERS- 1939  
OFFICERS

## FROM ONE GOOD SOLDIER TO ANOTHER



## Made Mayor



### CAPT. WILLIAM H. BOWERS

Having been informed by the war department of his promotion to the grade of major upon completing the required number of years in his present grade, Captain Bowers will sail August 31 for duty in the Philippine Islands. He is a graduate of Howard university R. O. T. C., and served a number of years with the Tenth U. S. Cavalry on the Mexican border. In civil life he is a bacteriologist having conducted laboratories at 83 East Thirty-fifth street, Chicago, for 11 years. He will train natives in the infantry who will replace the white troops that are now protecting the island. Capt. Bowers lives at 318 East Fifty-sixth street.

*1-9-39 Pittsburgh Pa.*  
Lieut. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. and his charming wife inspect the new honor medal being worn by Capt. Alonzo S. Ward, who has been selected as the honor man of the governor of New York from the 369 Infantry regiment for the 1939 season. Lieut. Davis himself is in line for some form of congratulation, having just been promoted last week to the grade of first lieutenant in the United States army. Rowe foto.

## U. S. Soldiers Can Still Smile



*Original and original 11-11-39*

IT WAS A FOOTBALL GAME AND parties for these two West Point cadets when they came to New York last week. They may have to come again someday to catch a boat to Europe for duty as leaders of units of the United States Army in World War No. 2.

Cadet Clarence Davenport, left, and Cadet James D. Fowler are students at the United States Military Academy at West Point. They visited Gotham for the Notre Dame-Army game and were guests of Billy Brooks, 226 West 150th Street. A party was given in honor of the cadets at Mr. Brooks' home in the Dunbar Apartments after the game. They are shown leaving the building.

## 2 Negro West Point Cadets Visit The Town



*Original and original 11-11-39 New York*

Neighbors in the vicinity of the Dunbar Apartments Saturday got an unexpected thrill when West Point's two Negro cadets marched in perfect time into the Dunbar Garden Apartment of Billy Brooks at 226 West 150th street and that evening were honored at a party. Shown leaving the party to return to West Point are left to right: Cadet Clarence Davenport, fourth classman, and Cadet James D. Fowler, second classman. The two cadets came to town with other members of West Point to see the Army-Notre Dame football game.

—Photo by M. Smith

SOLDIERS- 1939  
OFFICERS

# Rumor Intensive Training Of Negro Units Will Provide For Regular Army Officers

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7—(ANP)—It is reported here, and through one whose utterances merit credence, that the purpose of the war department in ordering all Negro military organizations "back to training camps" is to develop officers for all-Negro units to be included in the expanded U. S. Army. According to the plan, as the story goes, regimental commanders, field and staff officers will be recruited from majors, captains and lieutenants of the present units while their non-commissioned personnel is to be combed for the new organizations' captains and lieutenants.

The all-colored 8th Illinois infantry of Chicago, the 369th regiment of New York, the third battalion of the 372nd regiment, located in Boston, and company units of colored national guardsmen, are becoming inured to winter-weather conditions in camps of their respective vicinities, while development of officers of the all-colored regiments goes on, according to the story.

Much guessing had been indulged and published respecting the motive of the military authorities for ordering the colored soldiers back to camps so soon after their return from late summer and early fall maneuvers.



*Atlanta, Ga.*

The most advanced of three colored cadets at the United States Military Academy at West Point is Cadet Powley, now in his third term. He is shown marching into the Philadelphia Municipal Stadium Saturday, prior to the annual Army-Navy game, in which the Army lost.—Staff Photo by Harver.

# Army Instruction Is Now Given Only In Three White Schools; Fair Deal Is Asked

*12-15-39 Nashville, Tenn.*  
Threat Of War And Undermining Of Colored Youth's Patriotism Cited Among Reasons Why Cadet Training Course Should Be Established Here

## TO NASHVILLE'S BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Gentlemen and Ladies, what do you think of the idea of giving the Negro boys of Pearl High School a project that undoubtedly would aid you in the fine work you are doing to make them law-abiding and patriotic citizens?

Have you ever given thought to establishing an R.O.T.C. unit at the Negro High school here and what a thrill it would give the Negro youth of this city to see members of their race undergoing the high-class military training that such a unit affords?

Have you ever thought of how depressing it must be to Nashville's Negro youth when they see the white youth of ALL of Nashville's white high schools provided with R.O.T.C. units while none is provided for the ONE Negro high school?

Does it not now appear urgent to you that an R.O.T.C. unit should be provided as a result of the imminence of war, in which Negroes as well as white youths will be called upon to shoulder arms for their country?

Are you aware of the sinister efforts that are being made to undermine the patriotism of Negro Americans and how definitely the discrimination against Negroes in the matter of training them for military service is contributing to this undermining menace?

Does not the custom of many high schools of the country in providing splendid R.O.T.C. units for Negro youth commend itself to you as being a just reason why such a unit should be organized in the Negro high school under your direction?

If you have ever heard any teacher or any parents object to having an R.O.T.C. unit for Pearl High School did it not impress you that such persons can not have the best interests of the Negro youth or of their country at heart?

While no hostility toward you is held by any Negro citizens because no R.O.T.C. unit has been established for their youth and there is even a feeling that you would be proud to see equality of opportunity given Negro students along all lines, are you not aware of the need for the board to take the lead in this important matter?

\*\*\*\*\*

If, as it is true, that the Negroes in Nashville who respect and trust your leadership in their school affairs believe that their youth will get an R.O.T.C. unit if and when you urge the Federal Government to establish it, will you not gratify them with prompt action in this matter?

## Admire Clay Model



*11-5-39*  
Cadets are resourceful as well as efficient in the Du Sable High School R. O. T. C. regiment. These five (left to right), First Lieutenant Erskine Moore, Maj. Alfred Cannon, Capt. Albert Logan, Sergt. Early Robert Jr., and Capt. John McLean Jr., examine a relief clay model which was made by the unit's Second Lieutenant Leon Bowden, with the assistance of Cadet Harold Nichols. A hill complete with drawn contour lines, the model will be used for study in the map reading course.

# OPINION

## Preparedness

Some of these days the United States may wake up from its Rip Van Winkle sleep into a shocking realization of the dangers of its one-sided preparedness policy. Then it may find a desperate need for the one-tenth of its population that it has been barring from peacetime participation in army, navy and aircraft training.

As pointed out in an article in last week's AFRO-AMERICAN, of the 226 senior units of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, only two are in colored institutions and there is not a single senior unit in any colored land grant college.

In other words, with one-tenth of the population, we have less than 1-100 of the facilities for military training.

While all white land grant colleges have military training, and military training is required in many State universities, the facilities for colored youths are confined to seven junior units in a like number of educational institutions.

At the present time there is just one colored student at West Point, and none at the Naval Academy at Annapolis. In the entire land, sea and air forces of this country we have but two officers trained at West Point, and these have been shunted around from one school post to another, with no opportunity to command troops of the regular army.

Colonel B. O. Davis was stationed at Tuskegee, then Wilberforce, and is now with a New York National Guard unit. His son, a West Point man, is at Tuskegee, where his actual military duties comprise two hours' work each day. Such activities are not designed to keep him in best trim for an important command in case of a war.

During the World War the high command of the U.S. Army waited until war was declared and then set up a six-month training course for colored men at Des Moines.

Since every competent officer knows that first line men can not be trained this way, the failure to train colored youths must be deliberate. If we are going to be ready to fight in any coming conflict, the training must start now.

In facing the present crisis in the world situation, President Roosevelt went over the head of General Malin

Craig, chief of staff of the army, on the question of sales of airplanes to France. Very good. We believe the President acted wisely. If we are to have a European war soon, we had better help France and England to win it with planes, so that they will not need to call upon us for men.

Why can't Mr. Roosevelt also overrule army officials in their short-sighted and un-American color discrimination in training officers?

## ANOTHER CONGRESSMAN PLEDGES SUPPORT OF 'APPOINTEE' BILLS

### CONG. MITCHELL APPOINTS BOY TO WEST POINT

WASHINGTON, D. C., Mar. 9—Support of bills providing for the appointment of two colored cadets to West Point by the President each year and prohibiting racial discrimination in the Regular Army was pledged last Friday by Representative J. Harold Flannery, of Pittston, Pennsylvania.

"These are matters which have had my consideration generally," he declared, "and colored people can be assured that these particular measures will have my support."

### "DICK" JONES NEW CAPTAIN AT 'EIGHTH'

In a special order effective Mar. 7, "Dick" Jones, manager of South Center Department Store was promoted from Sergeant to Captain and assigned to the 8th Regiment Staff as assistant plans and training officer. Captain Jones was born in Albany, Ga., and has been a resident of Chicago for the past 17 years. He was educated at the University of Cincinnati and the University of Illinois. During the World War he was assigned to the 317th Engineer Regiment as 2nd Lieutenant after graduation from the 3rd Officers Training School at Camp Sherman, Ohio. He also saw duty with the military police at Louisville, Ky.

After the war he was made manager of the Finance Corporation in Louisville and later organized the Standard Bank, the



RICHARD JONES

first Negro Bank ever created in Kentucky. In 1922 he received a minor employment with the South Center Department Store in Chicago and rose to business manager in 1928. At present he is general manager of the store, employing over 300 people a large portion of whom are Negroes.

Captain Jones enlisted in the 8th Regiment as private in 1937 and was promoted to sergeant in service company six months later.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Mar. 30—Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell of Illinois, who is scheduled to deliver the Founder's Day address at Tuskegee Institute Sunday, announced the appointment of Robert Tresville, Jr. of Fort Benning, Ga., as a candidate for the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Tresville, who has a very high scholastic standing, should be admitted to the Military Academy without mental examination, Congressman Mitchell stated. He has finished his first year's college work at Pennsylvania State college, where he specialized in science and engineering. He is 17 years old.

The youth's father is Robert B. Tresville, a Warrant Officer of the 24th Infantry stationed at Fort Benning, Ga. Congressman Mitchell also announced the appointment of a white youth from Chicago to Annapolis. The youth is Mark A. Fisher, Jr., 311 So. Clark street. Both appointees are expected to enter the governmental training schools in July, it was stated.

# Youth, 17, Passes Preliminary Medical Test For Admission To U.S. Military Academy

Son Of Army Officer To Specialize In Technical Aviation; Former High School Star Athlete

the Ninth Cavalry, 431; Tenth Cavalry, 678; 24th Infantry, 891; 25th Infantry, 1,073, and other activities, 612.

Robert Bernard Tressville, Jr., 17, son of an army officer at Fort Benning, Ga., passed the preliminary medical examination for admission to the United States Military Academy, last Thursday. He was nominated for the appointment by Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, of Chicago.

Tressville, Germantown High school honor graduate and star athlete, is technically appointed from Illinois, although he resides with his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Tressville, of 6602 Musgrave street, Germantown. He intends to specialize in technical aviation at West Point.

At present a freshman and high ranking student at Penn State College, Tressville was graduated from Germantown High in February, 1938.

He was a star member of the championship tennis team, a pole vaulter on the track team and an expert swimmer. In addition he is a capable horseman.

A few years ago he won the Boys' Week oratorical contest and is a member of St. Barnabas P. E. church.

Tressville was born at Galveston, Tex., and moved to Philadelphia five years ago to be educated in the North. His father is leader of the Fort Benning band and has been in the army service 28 years.

## NEGRO SOLDIERS

Recent dispatches from Washington state that there are only 3,685 Negro soldiers listed in the regular army of the United States. Instead of holding our own, it is said that the number is being decreased annually.

It is discouraging to learn that there are no colored doctors in the Medical corps, no colored dentists in the Dental corps, no colored veterinarian in the Veterinary corps, and no colored nurses in the Nurse corps. The dispatch states:

"The latest compiled strength of the Regular Army shows that there are only 3,685 colored enlisted men. They are assigned to

First Lieutenant Now



LT. BENJAMIN O. DAVIS

West Point graduate, now assigned to Tuskegee Institute, who was promoted last week from 2nd Lt. to Lieutenant. Davis' father, Col. Benjamin O. Davis, is in charge of the colored regiment of the New York National Guard.

## DAVIS NOW A FIRST LIEUT.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 13—Second Lieutenant Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., Infantry, was nominated by the President last Monday to be a first lieutenant with rank from June 12, next.

His nomination was included in a batch of promotions in the Regular Army, which President Roosevelt sent to the Senate.

## 24TH INFANTRY GETS

## NEGRO CHAPLAIN

FORT BENNING, Ga., April 27—First Lieut. John A. DeVeaux was this week appointed as chaplain of the 24th Infantry stationed here. The assignment followed a recent competitive examination held at Washington. Lieut. DeVeaux received the highest rating. He is a native of Marion, Fla., and was pastor of Bethel A. M. E. church, Williamsport, Pa., for ten years before accepting the appointment in the regular army.

# GOV. AL POINTS MCKANE ON OFFICIAL STAFF

(KNS) — History among colored people of Massachusetts was made on Wednesday evening, May 17, 1939 when His Excellency Governor Leverett Saltonstall entered the drill shed at the South Armory accompanied by his military staff. On this staff in full uniform marched a colored officer who is first lieutenant Cornelius McKane, a former Sergeant in the 37th Infantry.

The occasion of the Governor's entrance was because of his acceptance of an invitation to review the Third Battalion, 372d Infantry, Mass. National Guard commanded by Major Alexander R. Davis, of which His Excellency, ex-officio, is Commander-in-Chief.

The review to the Governor was excellent and the persons who crowded the large armory enjoyed both the review and the evening parade held after His Excellency had inspected the supply rooms of each company and then returned to the drill shed to join the audience, which applauded the precision of the officers and enlisted men including the "best band" in the Mass. National guard.

Great as was the interest in the military movements, the greatest interest was in the fact that at last a colored man was officially on the Governor's Staff, thereby giving the colored people of Massachusetts recognition for their military prowess which dates back to the Revolutionary War and which is still strong and active in the 372d Infantry.

Among the many distinguished persons present was Lt.-Col. Larkland F. Hewit, the only living former commander of the battalion who is in Massachusetts. The late Lt.-Col. Edward Dugger was represented in the ranks of the famous Tufts track athlete of the Leverett Saltonstall of Massachusetts present hour.

## NAMES RACE MAN TO STAFF

BOSTON, Mass., May 25—Cornelius McKane, former sergeant in the 372d Infantry of Boston, who was recently appointed first lieutenant on the military staff of Gov.

Levett Saltonstall of Massachusetts, made his first appearance in that capacity Wednesday night in the South Armory when His Excellency reviewed the Third Battalion of the 372d, commanded by Major Alexander Davis.

SOLDIERS- 1939  
OFFICERS

# Second Colored Cadet Is Entered At West Point

DETROIT—(ANP)—West Point received another Negro student when Clarence Davenport, of this city entered that institution July 1. Davenport, who was notified as to his acceptance May 11 after having taken the written, oral and physical examinations at Fort Sheridan, Ill., which he passed with a high rating, was appointed by ex-Congressman George D. O'Brien, democrat, while in office.

In his three years at the University of Detroit, young Davenport who majored in chemistry, minored in mathematics and philosophy, kept a B plus average, carried off all scholastic honors, and was declared by professors to be one of the most brilliant students in the school.

## FIRST FROM MICHIGAN

Davenport is the first Negro in Michigan to receive an appointment to West Point and Congressman O'Brien said he was willing to break the ice.

Credit, however, for the appointment is due to the efforts of Mrs. Mable E. Flack, an outstanding woman in civic and political affairs here. It was Mrs. Flack who, without the aid of any political organization, prevailed upon Mr. O'Brien to make the appointment after having found a young man with the right qualifications.

No other names were entered in opposition to Davenport and the thing was certified before political leaders had an opportunity to put up the customary howl and clamor for their respective choices.

## WORKED WAY THRU SCHOOL

Davenport, a quiet, unassuming but studious and hard working young man, worked his way through school under very difficult situations and he believes his strong will and determination to succeed under any circumstances will steel him for the ostracism, segregation and undue hardships which might be heaped upon him at West Point. He hopes to emulate Davenport, who was notified as to his acceptance May 11 after having taken the written, oral and physical examinations at Fort Sheridan, Ill., which he passed with a high rating.

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## Majored in Chemistry

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## Worked Way Through School

Davenport, a quiet, unassuming but studious and hard working young man, worked his way through school under very difficult situations and he believes his strong will and determination to succeed under any circumstances will steel him for the ostracism, segregation and undue hardships which might be heaped upon him at West Point. He hopes to emulate Col. Charles Young.

A public reception was tendered Davenport at the Lucy Thurman Y. W. C. A. Sunday evening at which more than 22 citizens attended. Ex-Congressman O'Brien, who made the appointment, and State Senator Charles C. Diggs were the principal speakers.

DETROIT. — (ANP) — West Point received another Negro student when Clarence W. Davenport, of this city entered that institution July 1.

Davenport, who was notified as to his acceptance May 11 after having taken the written, oral and physical examinations at Fort Sheridan, Ill., which he passed with a high rating.

DETROIT, July 29 (ANP) — attended. Ex-Congressman O'Brien, who made the appointment, and State Senator Chas. C. Diggs were the principal speakers.

# DETROIT LAD MAY GO TO WEST POINT

DETROIT, June 29. (ANP) — A belated but perhaps well intentioned effort to appoint another member of the race to West Point Military academy came in the form of a telegram a few days ago from Congressman John Dingle of the 5th congressional district here.

The telegram forwarded to Harold Smith, political boss of the district, informed Mr. Smith that the lateness in making the appointment was because Mr. Dingle had only one which was for the Naval academy at Annapolis and that he had to make a deal with a colleague who switched appointments with Dingle so that the Negro youth could go to West Point instead of Annapolis. The telegram did not explain, however, why Congressman Dingle did not select a Negro for Annapolis.

The Military academy opens July 1, which means that some hurried work has to be done in order to make a suitable selection of a candidate who could meet the necessary requirements, take the examinations, and be prepared to enter July 1. There is still an element of doubt as to whether or not it will go through.

A citizens committee was appointed, with Mrs. Geneva Casey as chairman. At a meeting Wednesday the committee centered on one Ambrose Nutt, 19, a student at the University of Michigan with three candidates, nevertheless, technical engineering as the most likely candidate. Three alternates were selected and their records sent to the congressman from which to make the selection.

A public reception was tendered Davenport at the Lucy Thurman Y. W. C. A. Sunday evening at which more than 22 citizens

# ONLY MICHIGAN NEGRO NAMED TO ACADEMY

Passes Exams with  
High Rating

# Scholastic Record

## Outstanding

6-23-39  
WASHINGTON, D. C., June 22

—A visitor in the nation's capital this week was Cadet James D. Fowler, who is entering his third year as a student at the military academy at West Point. Fowler, the only colored cadet at the military training school, has finished two years' work and training with credit, and is now taking his first vacation in Washington.

The youth, who was appointed to West Point by Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, Democrat, of the First District of Illinois, July 1, 1937, received his early military training under Colonel H. O. Atwood of the U. S. Army. His record in mathematics and engineering at the military academy has been outstanding.

### Ostracized First Year

Cadet Fowler says his first year at West Point was the hardest. He was ostracized by many of the white students, but stood the grind and has now reached the point where graduation is practically assured. He says he has about overcome all opposition, and many of his best friends are white boys from the southern states. His visit to the capital, dressed in the uniform of the academy, attracted much attention.

Congressman Mitchell recently appointed another colored boy to West Point. The youth, Robert B. Tresville, Jr., has passed all examinations and requirements, and will begin his course of training July 1. Young Tresville's father is an officer in the 24th Infantry.

### Two Vacancies at Annapolis

In an interview a few days ago, Congressman Mitchell told the BEE he has two vacancies at the Naval Academy at Annapolis. He cited the extreme difficulty in finding qualified colored youth interested in taking the course at Annapolis, where the literary requirements are more stringent than at West Point.

Entrance requirements state that applicants, in addition to being a high school graduate of high standing, must have at least one year's training in a Class A college majoring in mathematics. Congressman Mitchell stated.

## SOLDIERS- 1939 ORGANIZATION OF

Eustis, Fla., Region  
April 21, 1939

### Teaching Americanism

American Legionnaires of Eustis, members of Ernest Westbrook Post No. 41, are always alert to their opportunities to teach Americanism, patriotism, and in other ways work for the improvement of citizenship in general. At no time in the history of this nation has it been more important to teach the principles laid down by our forefathers, on which the future of this nation rests. With the many schools of new thought, deceptive "isms" and revolutions of all kinds sweeping the entire world, the Constitution of the United States still stands as the guiding light to direct the destinies of this nation, and the American Legion is one of the most stalwart supports of true constitutional Americanism.

Latest progressive activity of the Eustis Legion Post is its part in sponsoring and organizing a Colored Veterans of the World War Post in eastern Lake County. Realizing the importance of teaching patriotic Americanism to the colored citizens of this county, local Legionnaires were largely responsible for forming a Tri-City Post, composed of Negro veterans of Eustis, Mount Dora and Umatilla. This is a notable accomplishment for Ernest Westbrook Post American Legion, which expects to take an active part in directing the affairs of the new colored organization. Instead of allowing the Negroes to become prey to all manner of "isms" and other revolutionary ideas, Eustis and Lake County Legionnaires will direct them in activities which lead to good citizenship and true American "ism."

Roanoke, Va., World News  
May 24, 1939

### Negro VFW Members Planning Poppy Sale

Colored Veterans of Foreign Wars, Dunbar Post No. 1444, will complete plans for the annual Poppy Day sale Saturday and Sunday at a meeting tomorrow night at 7 o'clock at the William Hunton branch Y. M. C. A. Wives of veterans who will assist in the sales will be guests.

A special Memorial Day program will be held at the Virginia theatre at 10 a. m., May 30. The veterans will discuss plans for this service at the meeting tomorrow night.

Columbia, S. C. State  
June 14, 1939

### Hartsville Negro Veterans Plan To Build a Hut

Hartsville, June 13.—Jackson Post, 22, Negro American war veterans, located at Hartsville, is developing plans to erect a hut on a lot recently leased from the city of Hartsville, located in the Negro section of the city. This is the culmination of plans started in 1935.

With Dr. G. W. Johnson, as past commander of post No. 22, the Negro veterans have been celebrating Armis-FAUST day, climaxed with a banquet for several years. This year it is expected the exercises and banquet will be held in the new building. The hut will likewise serve as a community center. Work on the proposed building will begin in the near future.

The veterans here will endeavor to get other veterans throughout South Carolina to organize and perfect a state organization.

The Hartsville hut when completed will be the first it is stated for Negro veterans in the state and according to reports may be the first in the South.

Other officers of the post including: Doctor Johnson consist of A. C. Cook, vice commander; Leonce Alston, service officer; Birdie Johnson, treasurer; Edd Thomas, sergeant-at-arms; Nile D. Henderson, officer of the day, and George Manning, post adjutant.

### VETERANS ROOT JIM - CROW AT ROCKFORD, ILL.

### Measure Banning Color Bar Passed

BY JOS. W. ROLLINS

Rockford, Ill., June 22—Discrimination was routed here when the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Military Order of Cooties met in a three-day encampment June 17, 18 and 19. The time-worn precedent of segregation in public places was abolished when colored delegates were admitted and took active parts in all sessions

held in Rockford's most exclusive hotels, the Faust and Lafayette.

The Major Charles L. Hunt accorded all delegates without re-

Post No. 2024, Veterans of Foreign Wars, were represented by Elect Colored to State Offices

Commander Eugene P. Frierson. The four delegates of the Mil-

and delegates and alternates John Hart, Harry Cootie of Monkey

Harris, Frederick E. Franklin, Mountain Pup Tent No. 20, play-

William Holman, Jr., Otho Kerr, and an important part in the elec-

Albert C. Blue, Earl W. King, tion of officers of that body. Their

Albert Wilson and Joseph W. Rollins were deciding factors in

the election of officers of that body. Their

Memorial exercises will be held at the Crosby-Garfield School at 8:00

Franklin was elected Grand Sky Pilot and Cootie Joseph W. Rollins, Grand Trustee.

All business sessions were held in the grand ballroom of the Monkey Mountain Pup Tent No.

charge of the State chaplain.

20 of Hunt Post was presented a

The post here has arranged a free

were in the Lafayette hotel. A silver loving cup for obtaining the

midnight show at the Royal Theatre

were most new members for 1938-39 for all Legionnaires and their wives

Robert B. Handy, National Adjutant General of the V. F. W.; Dr. Joseph C. Mendez, National Jun-

ior Vice Commander; William J. Grace, Department Commander of

The ladies auxiliary was repre-

sented by Mrs. Frederick K.

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William Jackson, J. W. Williams, will speak on "Child Welfare Is

O. C. Hnuter, Stanley B. Norvell, George Jefferson and Tipio Jones.

Griffin, Ga. News

June 26, 1939

### COLORED WAR VETS WILL MEET FRIDAY

The highlight of the encampment was the huge military parade, Sunday afternoon, June 19. Over 75,000 persons lined the principal streets of Rockford to view the colorful spectacle. Equally interesting was the Cootie torchlight parade at 11 p. m., and requests a full attendance of the Grand Scratch at 12:30 a. m., colored Veterans.

Saturday, June 17.

Among the various resolutions passed was the one opposing the easing of the Neutrality Law and the defeat of the War Risk Insurance act. Significant also was an amendment to the Department By-Laws introduced by Seamus Squirrel Joseph W. Rollins in the Cootie Council of Administration, which was passed unanimously.

Cootie Rollins' amendment, which laws discrimination at subsequent encampments, followed attempted discrimination occasioned when Hotels Faust, LaFayette and the Midway Tavern raised the color bar. These public places, however, were forced to bow to the uncompromising demands of tending the convention here Sunday.

Monday and Tuesday.

The local post is offering a number of free attractions. All registered Legionnaires will be given a free swim at the John Chavis Park Sunday afternoon. At 4:30 there will be a flag raising exercise and a dedicatory address by Prof. H. L. Trigg

State supervisor of Negro high schools. The Raleigh drum and bugle

Memorial exercises will be held at the Crosby-Garfield School at 8:00

p. m. There will be welcome ad-

dresses and music and presentation

of Raleigh's only Negro Gold Star

Mother. The memorial will be in

charge of the State chaplain.

The post here has arranged a free

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Griffin, Ga. News

June 26, 1939

### NEGRO VETERANS COMPLETE PLANS

### Charles T. Norwood Post Ar- ranges Entertainment For Negro Legionnaires

The Charles T. Norwood Post of the American Legion has completed arrangements for elaborate enter-

## NEW QUARTERS NEGRO LEGION

Melvin Elliott post 202, local negro organization of the American Legion, will move into its new quarters over the Service drug-store on Gillespie street this week. In connection with the activities of this post a rest-room for colored women will be maintained in this building. The rest-room will be opened Saturday morning, July 1, and will be open each day from 9:30 a. m. to 5 p. m.

## Chicago Plays Host to 8,000 Legionnaires

Southside Has Many  
Social Events and a  
Parade with 5,000

CHICAGO, (ANP).—Between eight and ten thousand colored members of the American Legion, representing more than fifty posts in all sections of the country, were given a royal welcome here, last week-end, as they arrived to attend the legion's annual convention.

After the legionnaires had registered with their state units at the Loop headquarters, they were welcomed at Southside Legion headquarters, 5539 S. State Street. Giles Post Club house at 5745 S. State Street, open 24 hours a day during the convention, September 24-28, was the center of activities.

### Formed Corporation

Robert S. Harrison, commander of Giles Post, was chairman of the central Southside activities committee, and Thomas Mayo was vice-chairman. Members formed the 1939 American Legion Convention Corporation, with Curtis Stilwell, past commander, as director.

Highlight of the Southside celebration was the big parade on Monday night, with nearly 5,000 marchers in line. This parade was a colorful curtain raiser to Tuesday's big Loop parade, in which the colored detachments

took a prominent part.

### Many Social Events

Other events were the grand ball, Monday night at the Savoy Ballroom, reunion of the Ninety-second and Ninety-third Divisions on Tuesday night, the banquet for distinguished visitors, Tuesday at Morris Eat Shop, and the open house celebration for delegates at Giles Post club house.

Giles Post Women's Auxiliary, Mrs. Emma Patterson, president, was hostess to all visiting auxiliary women and held a cocktail party in their honor on Tuesday at the Ambassador Club. On Wednesday the auxiliary gave a luncheon at Morris Eat Shop for all visiting past presidents of post auxiliaries and several honored guests.

## TRY TO BREAK DOWN RULE AGAINST NEGRO POSTS TO AMERICAN LEGION IN SOUTH

## Alabama and North Carolina Only States in South With Negro Legion Posts; White Units Bar Veterans

CHICAGO.—(ANP)—Last Monday as the American Legion horde, numbering nearly a quarter of a million delegates and visitors, advanced on the Chicago stronghold, a close checkup revealed that 2,000 colored Legionnaires, their families and other visitors, together with about 12 elected delegates, journeyed here for the Legion's twenty-first annual national convention.

Among the states sending an elected delegate were Connecticut, Illinois, California, Missouri, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan. These delegates were elected at legion state conventions and represent the numerical strength of posts in the various states, coupled with political stability. In some states where colored legionnaires are comparatively few in number, Negroes play clever politics and succeed in getting a delegate despite their lack of numerical strength.

Chief reason for Negroes not having more delegates to the national conventions is that in the states where most of the colored veterans live, it is impossible to organize a post. The South as a whole—the legion to so legislate as to break the ban of Southern states departments—will not extend the privilege of membership to Negro members. The Massachusetts delegation brought that resolution with them. Whether it will get through the legion's resolution committee is the big ques-

tion.

**Want Constitution Changed**  
Meat of the Massachusetts resolution was its provision that the constitution of the American Legion be changed. Under the present constitution, a charter from a new post may be accepted by the national commander or national adjustant, upon approval by the state department commander of that state's executive committee.

The resolution proposes that the constitution be altered to read that the state department commander or the executive committee may disapprove the application for a new charter "only where it is shown that there are sufficient posts to take care of community needs."

As is readily discernible, this provision—should the resolution be adopted—will pave the way for Negro posts in the deep South, as those already established, except in Alabama and North Carolina, are for white legionnaires only.

### Delegate Active

Another delegate who took an active part in the convention was Percival O. Carter, commander of the Charles Young post, Bridgeport, Conn. Carter engineered through the Connecticut state convention an exceptionally strong resolution urging enactment of an anti-lynching law. His state delegation, presumably would be bound to present that resolution to the national resolutions committee and fight for its enactment.

Carter showed fellow legionnaires a statement from Bernard J. Ackerman, Connecticut state commander, in which Ackerman advised that national commander Stephen F. Chadwick, after seeing the Massachusetts anti-lynching resolution, stated that the legion was already on record on the anti-lynching bill.

Carter, however, contended that his resolution had teeth in it, and set about developing a committee to carry the fight before the national body's resolution committee. It was even hinted that Carter would be able to pull enough wires to be granted permission to speak in defense of his resolution on the floor of the convention.

A feature of Tuesday's colorful 15-hour-long legion parade was the colored Junior Drum and Bugle corps of St. Louis' Powell post No. 77, winners of the Missouri state band contest. The junior band led the Missouri delegation and won thunderous applause all along the line of march. Another prize winning colored unit in the parade was that from Ohio and still another from Kentucky and its appearance was always the signal for loud salvos of cheers and applause.

The George Giles Post of Chicago was official host to visiting legionnaires. Commander Robert S. Harrison, Past Commander Thomas J. Mayo and Chairman Curtis Stilwell of Giles Post won high commendation for their part in perfecting the details incidental to the royal welcome extended their fellow Legionnaires and their wives.

Eustis, Fla., Region  
September 28, 1939

## EUSTIS LEADS STATE BY INSTALLATION OF NEGRO BOYS COUNCIL

### Mayor Gaylord Addresses Officers of Group Thursday Night

Mayor Harry E. Gaylord addressed and installed officers of the Negro Boys Council of Eustis at a meeting Thursday night. The Council is the first of its kind in Florida.

The Council is sponsored by the Colored Veterans of the World War. Officers who were installed include:

Jeff Lee Jones, mayor; Wilbur Blackman, clerk; James Benn, judge; Christ Anderson, police chief; Luke Armstrong, police sergeant; Herbert Williams, health officer; Sidney Dunn, athletic officer and John Gentry, park officer.

Despite heavy rain, a good crowd turned out. Over 30 boys were present as well as a number of members of the Colored Veterans Post.

The meeting was opened by acting mayor Benn with a salute to the flag, followed by a prayer and the singing of America.

The meeting was turned over to O. M. Grimstad, chairman of Negro affairs for the American Legion post in Eustis, who spoke on the purpose of the organization, which is to "Foster and perpetuate 100% Americanism, and to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community."

Mr. Grimstad introduced Mayor Gaylord of Eustis, who installed the officers and proceeded to give the members of the Council a talk that will long be remembered by the boys for the friendly and good advice it contained.

Professor Pinkney and Commander Benn of the Veterans Post offered the boys some good advice and pledged their cooperation.

SOLDIERS- 1939  
ORGANIZATION OF

# VETS HAVE GALA WEEK PARADES, MEETINGS, SOCIALS CROWD CALENDAR

By MONROE MASON

Memories of booming cannon and bugle calls in past wars of America were significantly recalled when delegates to the V.F.W. convention crowded through the historic cause of peculiar racial veteran delegates of Boston this past week. On the eve of opening the convention proceeded south. Fuentes bravely sat in theings thousands of hilarious veterans with their families were pouring into the city by auto, boat, bus, train and air-ways. Beautiful bugle-decked, also colored bunting draped buildings and stores greeted the veteran horde. On

Monday morn's sun rose from the bay, and gave promise of a splendid day, and gave promise of a splendid lay for another session of fun and generation stood in amazement witnessing an incessant jollification of grown up men, scores of them past middle age, Boston's narrow streets and sidewalks in the department store area were bogged with humanity from early morn until long past midnight. During the convention peak police became powerless in directing traffic regulations.

Colored delegates and visitors entering the city were met by boy scouts and directed, if they so desired to the Robert Gould Shaw House where housing facilities were provided for and general convention information given Sub-chairman, Lewis Caution and L. Greene, with a corps of efficient assistants were on duty to inform and register the V.F.W. racial contingents as they arrived.

Windsor street from Shawmut avenue to Westminster St. was festooned with organization banners and flags the Shaw House headquarters elaborately decorated, transforming that section of lower Roxbury into an "Arch of Triumph."

The pages of the register when scanned revealed scores of "Vets" from the leading Colored World War 92nd and 93d combat divisions. Old "L" company campaigners who fought in those units residing in Boston formed a continuous greeting guard of honor as their buddies from the distant states ended their convention journeys to joy a week of Boston hospitality.

A traditional east wind happily blew from the harbor leaving its salty aroma as a reminder that fall was around the corner and the unusual hot summer was ended when the first visitors arrived. The grand prize for the first colored delegate to arrive should be

given to Emanuel A. Fuentes of New Orleans, La., representing the only colored V.F.W. post in his state, and he

953, with a 35 piece band with 70 Battalion of the 372 Inf., M.N.G. also levoted by the delegates and visitor post members in line marched the en-welcomed the visitors and thanked is packing day. Today, Saturday tire parade route led by Comander those who attended the review before scores were homeward-bound via Nev William H. Greene and a high stepping coming to the banquet.

York to the World's Fair and side trip to the beaches and eastern summer re viewing stand a brief halt was made scenes of the Buffalo 1938 convention shutdown. Another V.F.W. annual and the band would burst forth with a of the V.F.W. and selected close-ups convention has adjourned. Boston's popular air and a series of intricate of the 3d Battalion in camp including 1939 welcome will be historic and me brill movements, receiving in turn a technicolor reel screened for the first norable. The convention corporation time of the 1939 military maneuvers lid a wonderful job!

The Isaac William Taylor Post, 2443, he colored V.F.W. Unit of Middlesex Co. led by Commander Julian Lawrence and a 50 piece colored boys drum and bugle corps also received a tremendous ovation from the onlookers with Captain Henry Sandridge at the lens' controls. When the press flash-been officially released, General chair-light of the head-table was taken those nan Lewis B. Caution has again been seated were General Chairman Lewis appointed National Deputy Chief of B. Caution, Hon. John W. Schenck, Staff and that the next convention will Maj. A. L. Davis, Com. William H. be held in Miami, Fla.

Before the parade an unscheduled went was staged at the Crispus Attucks monument on the Common. One V.F.W., 2443, Mahala Austin, pres Ladies Auxiliary to Toy Post, 953 corps came and saluted the 5 martyrs shot by harrassed British soldiers on March 5, 1770. This convention inci-Commander-in-Chief Van Antwerp vocation, Rev. D. LeRoy Fergerson came with the outfit, lending dignity St. Cyprian's P.E. Church, who deliv to the proceedings. The editor of the theered the benediction, Mrs. Lulu Boyd's Guardian assisted in the ceremonies and Mrs. Wells, Gold Star mother and phtographer Clark was on hand and Mrs. Minnie Mewitt, Genera Ladies Auxiliary chairman. Comman Green, Toy Post, 953, V.F.W., Com. Among the delegates present were: Julian Lawrence, I. W. Taylor Post Miss Eleanor Baldwin, Mrs. Eleanor Stewart, Bangor, Me.; Mrs. S. Jeffreys, Miss Helen Simmons, Mrs. S. La Mont, Charles Richardson, Shelley La Mont, Samuel Jeffreys, W. A. Pierson, Columbus, Ohio; Mrs. L. Douglass, Mrs. Maude Tomkins, Mrs. Madeline Thomas, Milton Jackson, Willia Willias, John Douglas, David H. Howard, Frank Gourdain, Leon Washington, New York; F. E. Franklin, John Harris, Fred E. Franklin, Joseph W. Rollins, Clifford R. Hazelwood, A. J. Jackson, Illinois; Albert Wells, Rupert Phipps, Rhode Island; Howard Stuckey, Joseph Howard, Isaac Saunders, Ross Richardson, John Hobson, George Johnston, Pennsylvania; H. F. Taylor, Daniel Mack, New Jersey; crossed the Charles river on a speedy Emanuel Fuentes, Louisiana; L. F. lightseeing tour over the myriad light Wilson, New Hampshire; Oley B. highways of the University City ar Watkins, Michigan; Smith Roane, Jaiving at the crowded post headquart cob H. Goines, Nathaneal Cotton, W. H. Greene, Massachusetts.

The stag-smoker of the Isaac W. Taylor Post, 2443, held in Cambridge was another Wednesday night conven- tion highlight. Several delegates Taylor, Daniel Mack, New Jersey; crossed the Charles river on a speedy Emanuel Fuentes, Louisiana; L. F. lightseeing tour over the myriad light Wilson, New Hampshire; Oley B. highways of the University City ar Watkins, Michigan; Smith Roane, Jaiving at the crowded post headquart cob H. Goines, Nathaneal Cotton, W. H. Greene, Massachusetts.

The smoker held at the 'Oil Burners Club for the colored delegates and visitors was a "night-spot" high-light. Several night club and vaudeville artists and a soap-box orchestra were on the program. Local press representatives were there also.

Wednesday night's banquet at Es-telle's chicken emporium was late in starting because of changed plans a the Harvard Stadium due to the weather, the scheduled bands and drum and bugle corps contests being switched to the Boston Garden where the indoor inadequate facilities hampered speedy judging of the innumerable

musical contesting contingents. Gen- The colored delegates caucus to select eral chairman Lewis B. Caution who a candidate for National Deputy Chief presided at the banquet briefly ex- of Staff was held at the Shaw House plained the 2 hour wait and thanked convention headquarters after the the delegates and visitors for their pa-tience. Hon. John W. Schenck was in- sightseeing tour. The ladies auxiliary tea was held in the afternoon. A troduced as representing the Governor change in plans was the reason for ad of Massachusetts and the Mayor of vaneing the caucus to Thursday. I Boston, and extended a cordial welcome was scheduled for Friday. The pro to the delegates and visitors on behalf gram change gave the colored delegate of the Common and the City. Mai A. L. Davis, commanding the 3d ball at Boston Garden. Friday wa

Part of the Suffolk So. contingent comprising the Patrick E. Toy Post





# MASS. FIGHTS FOR VETERAN RIGHTS AT CHICAGO CONVENTION

by thousands of Colored ex-sailors and soldiers, who have been victims of this organized discrimination. Opinions George H. Simmons of William E. Biffen on what should be the outcome Carter Post, 16, constitutes document of the proposed equality racial veteran evidence that Georgia and other membership amendment. There are southern Legion departments, not only hopes of unanimous agreement to refuse membership colored. World War veterans but prohibit the formation of legionaires of all races Legion Posts by them, contrary has opposed. The Legion membership will increase, if the amendment as proposed, is affirmed.

A True Copy  
American Legion  
Dept. of Georgia, July 9, 1939

Mr. G. H. Simmons  
Wm. E. Carter Post, 16  
Boston, Mass. 9-30-39

Dear Comrade: In reply to your letter of July 5, we in Georgia do not recognize colored veterans in the Legion in any way. There are no Posts for them in the state and they are not admitted to membership whatsoever.

Sincerely, Boston Mass.  
(Signed)

Stanley Jones, Adjutant.

This week at the Chicago National Convention of the American Legion, an effort is being made to efface this racial veteran barrier. An amendment to the constitution, passed unanimously at the State Convention at Taunton, Mass., is being offered to opportunity for Negroes to enlist in the army and navy on the basis of the white shall not be stifled; in "blackout" of the Legion in certain Southern states was scheduled to be a communication sent to government officials in Washington by all for service and loyalty. Proscription of America signed by Stephens should no longer be allowed or contrary to the Chicago Convention's anti-Douglas, national commander, and done.

Whatever happens will be historical, because only in "In any governmental defense racial intolerance should never a few instances has the National plan against the impending effects have any place in the scheme for Legion Constitution been amended of Hitler's madness to be successful must take in all groups of our and the navy must be purged of all Delegates from other southern departments that ostracize colored veterans will probably fight the resolution and may succeed in getting it tabled or left to be disposed of after the convention adjourns, thus preventing discussion from the floor. These men may divide the Massachusetts delegation and may even split the Legion at this inopportune time when the nation needs the cooperation of all national organized units in view of the conflict in Europe.

America's guardianship of the western hemisphere is by no means a small matter. A large veteran organization like the American Legion, torn and the opportunities for enby factional strife, because of its unlistment in the service of the country democratic ideals fostered by certainty should be thrown open to all departments might become a great menace in solving future domestic problems. All of America's veterans of the World War fought for preserving Democracy. Why for over two decades has the American Legion failed to recognize a part of its eligible military and naval manpower in Peace? This question has been continuously proportioned for many years

"The time has come when the bars of prejudice should be banished and the opportunities for entry into the service of the country should be thrown open to all citizens on the sole basis of fitness, intelligence and capabilities. Colored youth will not be enthusiastic for entering any approaching conflict hampered, as were the conditions in the past, by racial prejudices. Traditions that have kept the eligible military and naval manpower from service our common country according to fitness in the past decades have been and are abominable.

ever been or will be more eager to spring to the defense of America and our Stars and Stripes than the members of the colored race. Let us drop the artificialities of prejudice, break down the barriers of discrimination and keep ever before us the dream of the founding fathers that this is the land of the free and the home of the brave, and white or colored, we are all Americans."

# POST AT TUSKEGEE STARTED DRIVE ON LEGION JIM CROW

The average white Legionnaire in the South takes his membership in the legion more seriously than members in any other section of the country. Poor whites, they begrudge any recognition to colored former soldiers. The Tuskegee post was won only after a long, hard fight in which Tuskegee's prestige was learned this week as the convention closed.

Dr. J. A. Kennedy, commander of the Brittain McKenzie post, located at Tuskegee, and the only Negro post in Alabama, explained the situation in an interview here Saturday.

"Our post in Tuskegee contacted the department of several states, asking them to favor this resolution for us," said Dr. Kennedy. "We sought aid from Michigan, the state of Washington and Massachusetts. The latter state agreed to espouse our national convention, where it was turned down this week. In fact, it got very little consideration at the hands of the resolution committee.

"One of the difficulties is a lack of unified pressure by all of the colored posts of the country to work with their state departments to bring pressure to correct this situation," Dr. Kennedy continued. "At this convention, we had only eight or 10 delegates. These were difficult to find and no unified program of action had been worked out prior to our coming here. Next year, we are beginning early and will hope to get better results at the 1940 convention in Boston."

In Alabama, although one post has been allowed, the state department does not look upon it with favor. Delegates are sent to the state convention, usually, but they have neither voice, vote nor welcome. The white Alabama legionnaires look at the colored delegates with hostility, evidently hating to see them entitled to wear the uniform.

When Commander Kennedy and Adjutant George Holland went to the Alabama headquarters in the Stevens hotel in Chicago to get their convention credentials, the state adjutant grew red at the back of his neck, gruffly handed them over, even though they were in Chicago. No invitation to join the Alabama delegation in parade was proffered.

## Request Opportunity for Negroes to Enlist in Defense Branches on Basis of Fitness and Intelligence

Those prejudicial precedents that governed naval and military policies in all past wars have to be corrected to race prejudice and an opportunity for Negroes to enlist in the army and navy on the basis of the white shall not be stifled; in "blackout" of the Legion in certain Southern states was scheduled to be a communication sent to government officials in Washington by all for service and loyalty. Proscription of America signed by Stephens should no longer be allowed or contrary to the Chicago Convention's anti-Douglas, national commander, and done.

All this is racial intolerance and must be stopped. In any governmental defense racial intolerance should never have any place in the scheme for Legion Constitution been amended of Hitler's madness to be successful must take in all groups of our and the navy must be purged of all Delegates from other southern departments that ostracize colored veterans will probably fight the resolution and may succeed in getting it tabled or left to be disposed of after the convention adjourns, thus preventing discussion from the floor. These men may divide the Massachusetts delegation and may even split the Legion at this inopportune time when the nation needs the cooperation of all national organized units in view of the conflict in Europe.

They will constitute a very large share of the military manpower of colored eligibles, including those who have such matters in control should, of necessity, make according to present tables of organization. Should America continue to discriminate as ruthlessly as in the past against such potential and available manpower?

Time Has Come

Hitler's world defiance and his mad pursuit of the policy of obnoxious dictatorship is repulsive to us all, and contrary to our ideals of democracy. America's economic, political and social attitudes toward the members of the colored race is alike. There is no wide divergence between the two attitudes. The aim and practices of each have a tendency to defeat Christianity and to cripple humanity."

"No group in America stands more firmly or more loyally behind the president in his attitude on war than the colored race. No group has

## Mayor Greets Legion Champions



SOLDIERS- 1939  
ORGANIZATION OF

### LEEMAN BOLAR, RUSSELL BOONE AND M AYOR BERNARD F. DICKMANN

As the city's chief executive examined the trophies won by them at the national legion convention in Chicago when he greeted them at the City Hall Monday. Boone won over 500 representatives from every state in the union as the outstanding drum major, while Bolar won fourth place in the individual bugle contest. Both were members of Tom Powell Post No. 77 junior drum

and bugle corps.

Boone was an 18-year-old graduate of Summer High School June, '38. His father Judge Boone was a member of the 25th infantry and served in the Phillipines. He resides at 3864 Windsor Pl., and is employed at the drug store at 3900 Enright Ave.

Bolar is a second-year student at Summer and the son of Dr. and Mrs. D. C. Bolar, his father being a chiropractic. He resides

at 2733 Chouteau Ave.

Atty. Robert Owens, member of the junior activities committee of the Legion Post and Commander James Randall were present during the greeting by the mayor. Mayor Dickmann praised the boys for the achievement and stated he felt he had been a hundred times compensated for the aid he gave the corps toward making the trip to Chicago.

Argus Photo.

Palatka, Fla. News  
August 3, 1939

**COLORED VETERANS RETURN** leading on the first ballot but failed (By Eddie J. Vreen) to have a majority vote. He was defeated by six votes in the run-off. The delegation of the Joe Purcell Post of the Colored Veterans of the World War has returned from a very successful meeting that Palatka had already received two of the major honors. The delegation, which was held in Miami Wednesday and Thursday of last week. There were nine of them and each one has come back with an inspiration to do a bigger and better job for the post and for the community.

All discussions of the meeting were centered around the theme "Americanism and Service." Each delegate was impressed with the importance of returning to his community with the idea of rendering unselfish service. The spirit of unselfishness prevailed in the meetings. The commander and members of the Harvey Seed Post and the members of the Auxiliary of the American Legion were outstanding in their demonstration of this spirit. They were very generous in their efforts to help the local colored post make a success in the entertainment of the convention. Their national champion bugle and drum corps furnished the music for the opening session. Their officers were present at all sessions and delivered instructive and inspiring addresses. The department commander and other high officials of the American Legion were there and made valuable contributions to the success of the meeting. The organization of the women's auxiliary was definitely set up and the women present were very enthusiastic over the outlook of the organization.

Our delegates took a very active part in the sessions of the convention. Each one was assigned places on important committees. If the boys will remember to carry out the suggestions given by the department commander and other officers of the American Legion they should prove to be of valuable service to our community. The Palatka post brought back two of the three major honors the convention had to offer. It received the colors and the flag for having the largest post in the state and the convention voted to come to Palatka for the 1940 session. Post Commander A. J. Polk was in the race for the position of state commander and was

## SOLDIERS- 1939 ORGANIZATION OF

Dothan, Ala "agle

January 5, 1939

### NEGRO VETS TO MEET

The Dothan Negro Veterans Club will meet tomorrow night at their club house on East Newton street, Tullis Porter, commander, said today. Better types of organization will be discussed at the meeting.

*Knoxville Tenn. Journal*

January 18, 1939

### Funeral Rites Enacted By Negro Legion Post

American Legion funeral rites were conducted for the first time yesterday by Post No. 80 (Negro) of Knoxville, in behalf of Charles Bryant, a member of the Perry Robinson post of Falls Church, Va. Services were at the home of a sister, 1520 Boyd Street, and burial was in the National cemetery. The sermon was preached by the Rev. D. A. Jackson. Post Commander C. D. Adams conducted the rites.

*Dothan, Ala. Eagle*

February 2, 1939

### NEGRO CLUB MEET

The Negro American Legion club will meet tomorrow night at their club house on East Newton street, it was announced today.

*Greenville, S C News*

January 26, 1939

### NEGRO VETS MEET

The Greenville post of negro World war veterans will meet tonight at 8 o'clock at Phyllis Wheatley center. Work for the new year will be discussed. Hammett J. Wilson is commander of the post.

*Knoxville, Tenn. Journal*

February 10, 1939

### Negro Legion Post

#### To Plan For Social

American Legion post No. 80, Negro, will meet at 8 p. m. today at Jarnigan hall, Nelson street, when plans will be completed for a Washington birthday social to be given at Market hall, Feb. 23, C. D. Adams, commander, said. *Bristol, Va. News-Bulletin*

February 13, 1939

### COLORED LEGION TO

#### SPONSOR MINSTREL SHOW THIS EVENING

"As loyal Americans we will obey the laws of our city, State Post, No. 87, will launch and nation and do our best to a campaign to raise funds for keep these laws fair and equal. the organization of a drum and bugle corps by holding a min-stitution of the United States and

sfel show tonight in the new auditorium at Slater high for colored on McWowell street. Tolliver's Minstrels, aided by Post No. 171, some of the best local talent, will stage the show. Minstrel numbers will include blues singing, tap dancing, and comedy skits. A "jitterbug" contest will be one of the highlights of the evening.

Peter Paul Bell is commander and William J. Smith adjutant of the colored unit which is known as the Tenneva Post of the American Legion.

*Aiken, S. C. Standard & Review*

February 17, 1939

## FLAG CONTEST IN CITY SCHOOLS

American Legion Auxiliary to Sponsor Contest On Proper Display of Flag

The American Legion Auxiliary will sponsor a contest at the African Grammar School, St. Angela and the Colored Graded School on Washington's birthday. The subject of both talks

will consist of drawing and coloring the American Flag and the answering of questions on the proper display of the flag. A small prize will be awarded to the winner in each section of the 4th, 5th and 6th grades.

The winners will be selected by the teacher of the grades or a committee of her selection. Each winner's paper is requested for display to the auxiliary.

Mrs. Lewellyn Burckhalter is chairman of the committee from the auxiliary who is in charge of the contest.

*Chattanooga, Tenn. News*

February 16, 1939

## Negroes Hear Speeches On 'Americanism'

Bristol's colored American Legion Post, No. 87, will launch and nation and do our best to a campaign to raise funds for keep these laws fair and equal. We will obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and

believe in no 'ism but Americanism," said Jesse J. Barrom, colonel of the Junior Class, Tuskegee Institute; music by the Institute Quartette, whose members are

Barrom, speaking on "Americanism" to the student body of the Orchard Knob Junior High School, Wednesday, emphasized "the importance of our heritage of liberty and our right to choose by our votes the men who govern us."

After eulogizing some of the fathers of the United States, Barrom concluded, "As an American, I pledge myself to maintain law and order, to foster and perpetuate 100 per cent Americanism, to show a sense of individual obligation to the community, State and field, of the nation; to combat the autocracy of Legionaires, given by the Post,

of classes and masses; to make were for outstanding and distinguished service rendered the Post during the current year. The Legion award to Dr. George W. Carver and to Robert Spring-

The Junior Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring talks through-out the week on "Americanism." Hunter Byington spoke Thursday at Lookout Junior High School, and Dr. P. R. Hysinger speaks Thursday at 8:05 p.m. over station WAPO. The subject of both talks on Washington's birthday. Theis "Americanism."

Tuskegee Legion Post

In Honor  
of  
Patriotic Program

3-2-39  
Held Wednesday,  
February 22

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. Members of the Britton G. McKenzie Post No. 150 of the American Legion, Department of Alabama, joined in the celebration of Washington's birthday with a patriotic program in Logan Hall

here Wednesday night. The program included music by the Tuskegee Band, remarks by Dr. Eugene H. Dibble, manager, Veterans' Administration Facility, Tuskegee Post No. 150 and his sub-

Miss Gladys Campanella, member of the Junior Class, Tuskegee Institute; music by the Institute Quartette, whose members are

CIGARETTE CASE: In appreciation of his hard work and unselfish effort in the forming of the parent body of the Britton G. Mc-

Capt. Alvin J. Neely, William W. Kenzie Post No. 150, the ex-service men's club, of which he was Roger E. McDonald. The principal address was delivered by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Legion Post became a reality.

WATCH FOB: For unselfish Institute, who also presented the service to the Post; devoting his time and money to forwarding its

Commander James A. Kennedy, interest and obtaining during his short time as Commander, the largest membership the Post has attained since the payment of the bonus.

COMRADE ROBERT SPRINGFIELD: Birmingham, Alabama SILVER WATCH CHAIN AND FOB: For his outstanding service to the Legion in securing new members, his faithful and efficient leadership and for the high regard in which he is held as a representative of the Birmingham unit.

COMRADE CLEVE L. ABBOTT: SILVER PLAQUE: For loyal and valuable service to the Post and community as Post Athletic Officer. A wise counselor and sympathetic adviser.

COMRADE E. H. CRAVENS, JR. LEGION RING: For securing the largest number of members during the current year, for being the most active past Commander, and for his interest and support of local Post programs.

Recipients of army service awards were Capt. James A. Kennedy, Medical Corps, 366th Infantry, U. S. Army, Post Commander, for "distinguished and exceptional gallantry under fire, at Norray, France, November 11, 1918," who received the silver star, and First Lieutenant Frank L. Drye, Company E, 365th Infantry, U. S. Army, for "distinguished and exceptional gallantry at Boisland especially to the Southland, Frehaut, France, November 11, 1918," who was awarded the Purple Heart with silver star. The

SILKEN AMERICAN FLAG: Our most active comrade who has rendered the most active service in the Army of the United States

CAPT. G. A. HOLLAND: DR. F. D. PATTERSON: SILVER PLAQUE: For valuable services to the race and nation especially to the Southland, rendered the most active service in the Army of the United States

DR. G. A. HOLLAND: DR. F. D. PATTERSON: SILVER PLAQUE: For valuable services to the race and nation especially to the Southland, rendered the most active service in the Army of the United States

Greenville S. C. News  
February 23, 1939

## Colored Veterans

### To Meet Tonight

The Greenville Colored World War Veterans association will meet parade which was staged Sunday afternoon, members of the bugle and drum corps of Charlotte leading, with colored Scouts and members of the Post in line.

An interesting program has been arranged and all veterans have been urged to attend.

Hammett J. Wilson is commander of the unit.

## IN THE NEWS



JAMES A. JOHNSON  
Director of the School of Business at Tuskegee Institute and Finance Officer of the British G. McKenzie Post No. 150 of the American Legion. *Received a gold star from the State Department of Alabama of the American Legion in recognition of his service in the membership drive during the current year.*

Statesville N.C. Daily  
March 13, 1939

## Colored Veterans Stage Big Parade

Post Officers Conference Opened Here Sunday and is Continuing Today.

Members of the local Ernest Morgan Post No. 217, composed of colored ex-service men of Statesville and Iredell county, are entertaining a number of visitors on the occasion

of the Post Officers conference which opened Sunday afternoon.

A large number of colored legionnaires are here for the conference, many from Charlotte and elsewhere in this section.

The opening feature was the street

tonight at 8 o'clock at Phyllis Wheatley club room.

An interesting program has been

arranged and all veterans have been

urged to attend.

Hammett J. Wilson is commander of the unit.

The conference was scheduled to be concluded today.

Tuskegee, Ala., News

March 23, 1939

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Office Of  
Americanism Committee  
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

Gentlemen.  
We are glad to read your paper and feel that the community should know what our Post is doing and would appreciate if you would write this in your paper.

The Post had a program March 22, 1939 at Logan Hall Tuskegee Institute at night at which Time Dr. Patterson made a talk and following members of Post and friends received medals and plaques that were given by Mr. Reid of Klein & Son, of Montgomery, as well Post number 1. Those receiving were Dr. Patterson, Prof. Carver, Coach Cleve Abbott, Barthes, Holland, Drye, Gravens, Springfield, Jas. A. Johnson. A gold star was given three members by State Department American Legion. We have passed our last year membership.

The Post furnished a Basket Ball court for Washington Public School and gave them a basket ball.

The Post voted last meeting night to give 3 U. S. Flags to 3 county Schools one being The Macon County Training School.

The Post has application for Headstones for Veterans who have been buried in this county and would appreciate any one giving them the names of any deceased Veterans Relatives. (colored).

E. H. GRAVENS, JR.  
Chairman.

Palatka, Fla., Herald  
March 24, 1939

## Colored World War Veterans To Meet

Joe Purcell Post No. 18, colored World War Veterans and Auxiliary will hold a special meeting Sunday, March 26, at their headquarters, 214 North Ninth street, Palatka, for the transaction of important business.

All wives, daughters and mothers of World War Veterans are asked to be present to join the Women's Auxiliary.

The local Post officers are, A. J. Polk, commander; A. L. Osgood, vice-commander and service officer; Elmer Read, adjutant.

McMinnville, Tenn. Standard  
April 7, 1939

## Colored School Band To Entertain Legion

A joint meeting of the American Legion and Legion Auxiliary will be held at the Legion hall Thursday evening, April 13 at 7:30 o'clock at which time the home economics class of the colored school will serve a banquet. The school has arranged an entertaining program and the newly organized school band will perform.

Revenue from the banquet will be used to apply on expenses of furnishing

the organization uniforms and instruments.

All members of both Le-

gion organizations are requested to

notify Ray Roberts, adjutant, whether they will attend. Mr. Roberts stated

the plates will be 35 cents.

Danville, Va., Bee  
April 6, 1939

## Colored Legion Post Also Seeks Drum Corps Fund

Waldon France Post 29, negro American Legion organization, will launch a drive for funds to provide permanent uniforms for its junior drum and bugle corps with a program at Loyal Baptist church Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

The corps will give a concert as part of the program. Tom Walker, negro lawyer, of Richmond, has been invited to make an address.

Officials of Post 10 have been asked to participate and aid in starting off the campaign.

The colored corps was organized last May, and since that time has been using temporary uniforms. The organization has staged several parades in the city and has made a good showing

each time. Music and drill practices are held regularly.

Donations will be received by M. C. Martin, cashier of the Danville Savings Bank and Trust Company, or those desiring to contribute may telephone J. H. Fuller, corps manager, at 1446, and the gifts will be called for.

Griffin Ga. News  
April 3, 1939

## COLORED WAR VETS WILL MEET FRIDAY

Members of Charles Young post, colored World War Veterans of Griffin and Spalding county, will meet Friday night at 8 o'clock at Crockett Hall on North Fifth street.

The local Post officers are, A. L. D. Finch, commander, urges a

full attendance.

Eustis, Fla., Region  
April 14, 1939

## COLORED VETERANS POST IS ORGANIZED

### Local Legionnaires Sponsor Tri-City Post

Excellent work in patriotism and education among the negroes of Lake County is expected to be organized school band will perform.

Revenue from the banquet will be used to apply on expenses of furnishing

the organization uniforms and instruments.

All members of both Le-

gion organizations are requested to

notify Ray Roberts, adjutant, whether

they will attend. Mr. Roberts stated

the plates will be 35 cents.

Danville, Va., Bee  
April 6, 1939

Officers of the new Colored Veterans Post were installed by the commander of the Colored Veterans Post of Leesburg.

Mr. Grimstad, who will attend all meetings of the colored post as sponsor representative, invited Commander Campbell and Commander-elect Kirkpatrick of Eustis, Commander Wiley of Mount Dora, and District Commander Williamson, of Leesburg, to attend the installation, and all these outstanding Legionnaires gave fine talks to the colored veterans. A chicken dinner was served following the meeting.

# Levi Pierce Reiterates His Charge Regarding The U.S. Army's Racial Recognition

*Black Dispatch 12-3-39*

Negro Soldier Is Given His Release Papers After Serving Ten Years With Nation's Troops

*Oklahoma City Okla.*

## Former Soldier Is Graduate of M. U.

CHICAGO.—(ANP)—Reiterating his charges that the U. S. army is filled with discrimination against Negro soldiers, Levi Pierce of Chicago who recently purchased his discharge through disillusionment after 10 years of service took issue with Major Ewert of the adjutant general's office in Washington and listed several standing soldier and one of the several specific instances of official discrimination in the army; color prejudice.

Private First Class Robert Campbell, another outstanding technician who was an undergraduate at the signal and operator; and Corporals University of Michigan before enlisting, wrote an open letter to Don Mosley, Brister O. Murdock and Joseph Burney.

Secretary of War Harry Wood. "But your department did not bring listing complaints against come out in the open and say the army. Although the secretaries could not attend but the army has never replied to his evasively stated there were 'no communication, Major Ewert did facilities' and 'no money had been release a statement which was appropriated to transport them to blanket denial of the charges and from the school.' made and was taken as an individual reply to the former soldier.

old headquarters troop, 10th cavalry, Fort Huachuca, Ariz., an

In a letter addressed to Major Ewert, Fort Huachuca, Ariz., an Ewert this week, Pierce says: answer Capt. Morris H. Marcus, ad-

"I ask you to reply to this: Injutant, 9th cavalry, who had the files at headquarters 9th cavalry Fort Riley, Kan., File No. 220,6, there are certain communications from the commanding officer, 9th cavalry, to the commanding officer, Signal school, Fort Monmouth, N. J., requesting that the members of the communications platoon, 9th cavalry, ended this school, Capt. Marcus for these members to compete for equest could not be favorably attendance at the signal school. onsidered? As you know, Ma-

"I personally know that from or, in the army this means dis- the years 1936, 1937, 1938 and 1939 certain members completed after."

and passed these examinations Referring to failure to provide and as yet have not been permitted additional Negro units, Pierce and to attend the army signal aid:

school. These members were Karl H. Speed, now discharged honor- ably from the 9th and who was a true but when the war department desires any situation college, Manhattan, Kan.; Private First Class James Cotton, an out-

ongressmen. The war department could, had it wished, have laced before congress certain bills which would have created new Negro units. Then instead of stopping and stagnating promotion in the four Negro regiments from 1930 until 1935 many worthwhile regiments could have been set up.

"Instead your department chose to take away the few grades Negro units had in order that you might set up the lily-white air corps unit. Even the present war

department regulations affect colored soldiers more than white for there is no direction in which a Negro soldier may turn to better condition. The same policy exists in all four Negro units. Mr. Pierce also pointed to the efforts of George Montgomery of Chicago to enlist. On Nov. 3 he received a reply from Major Leland W. Skaggs stating that the small colored quota for the corps area had been filled and suggested that Montgomery contact one of the four Negro units. Pierce says there is a ruling for colored soldiers that in order to enlist they must pay their transportation to and from these army posts unless they live in that corps area. This is not required of white soldiers, Pierce declares.

Contradicting Major Ewert's statement that there is no discrimination in the army, the former soldier says he has seen much at Forts Riley and Leavenworth in Kansas and Sill in Oklahoma. Until the new war department theatre was built at Leavenworth colored soldiers were forbidden to enter the Y. M. C. A. theatre and swimming pool which was operated for army personnel on a military reservation maintained and kept with taxpayers' money." Negroes are kept from obtaining officers' commissions when other means fail by the "good old medical examiner's report" which always find colored applicants "physically unfit."

"We want and need Negro nurses, doctors and officers and intend to keep up the fight until we obtain them," Pierce goes on. "Your Uncle Tom puppets in the service must go and you know as well as I what is meant by this. A white officer, Lt. W. W. Culp,

told me at Fort Riley in August 1936, in the C. M. T. C. office that 'the constitution was not written for colored people and we white people are going to rule over you dark people for another 100 years.' This exemplifies the type of officers that are helping keep out deserving Negro officers and yet he continues to serve at Fort Meade, South Dakota.

"It was 73 years ago that congress granted authority to organize four colored regiments. I ask you in all fairness to the proportion of taxes paid and the advance of times why you have not held white organizations to the same setup organized 73 years ago with only two branches of service in which they might be accepted?

"We have helped from the beginning of this country to make it what it is today yet your department has welcomed foreign citizens and denied those who have been the backbone of America. A fight would not be necessary if we were given only the things guaranteed by the constitution."

SOLDIERS- 1939  
REGIMENTS, REGULAR ARMY

# Seek To Avert Draft Problems Of Last War

## Legionnaires Recall Situation Which Developed At Camp Dodge

CHICAGO—(ANP)—The serious side of war insofar as colored soldiers are concerned was the topic of many little gatherings at Robert Giles Legion post during the recent American Legion convention. With less than a dozen delegates, the rest of the 1,500 visitors gathered at Giles and at various places on the Southside for reunions and confabs.

Descriptions were given of some of the tactics employed in the South in the recruiting and drafting of soldiers. The 366th regiment of the 92nd division was recruited at Camp Dodge, Ia. The regiment was composed of Alabama farm boys to the extent of two thirds, the rest being from Minnesota. The Alabama boys, most of them from the backwoods, were so ignorant that scarcely a single non-commissioned officer could be secured from them. It was necessary to draw upon the Minnesota group, many of whom had received some schooling, to fill out the quota of non-coms.

### 900 SENT BACK

"It appeared as though the draft officers in Ala. grabbed every boy of the correct age they could find, and shipped him up to Dodge," one medical officer said. "We had to ship 900 boys back from Camp Dodge because of disabilities. They had social diseases, or in one way or another was unfit for service. They should have been examined before they were sent north."

"One boy came to me who had a big sore on the back of his neck and only one eye," this officer continued. "How on earth did you get here? I asked. The lad, from a small town, said he had driven a load of cotton to town and was standing watching a troop train

sort of square deal for black troops after they got in the army as it was to get them the privilege of joining to become cannon fodder under more or less unfair and inhuman conditions.

### FAVORS COLORED DIVISION



PRESIDENT F. D. PATTERSON of Tuskegee Institute, who favors separate division in event of another war in order to give the Negro a chance to command his own troops.

There appeared to be a consensus of opinion that black soldiers should do their share, but that it was as important to fight for some

# Former Cavalryman In U.S. Army In Open Letter To War Secretary Expose Discrimination Against Us

ials in the post exchange both there and at Fort Leavenworth.

CHICAGO, Ill. — Sensational charges of official army discrimination against Negro soldiers equaled only by the Nazi attitude toward Jews in Germany are contained in an open letter sent last week to Secretary of War Harry H. Woodring at Washington by Levi Pierce, veteran of 10 years service with the Ninth cavalry at Fort Riley, Kas., who recently obtained an honorable discharge and returned here.

At the same time he says Negro commissioned officers would remedy most of these ills.

Mr. Pierce pointed out that army officials always deny any charges of unfairness and obtain statements from Negro non-commissioned officers saying that the regular army out of a total

"all is well." These Colored officers, it was declared, are forced to support officidom if they intend to get any consideration in the future from those higher up. Specifically, Mr. Pierce charges:

1. Soldiers of the Tenth cavalry are forced to work seven days weekly as orderlies for white student officers and to take care of horses used in women's and children's riding classes under penalty of court-martial.

2. Ninth cavalry soldiers get so little training that veterans of 20 years service cannot drill in simple military formations. What drills they get are after hours when they have worked all day as servants, grooms and stable boys.

3. Negro reserve officers are not given the opportunity to qualify for commissions in the regular army.

4. Colored soldiers are kept from attending many service schools even though passing all examinations for enrollment.

5. At Fort Riley, Kas., Ninth cavalrymen are Jimcrowed in the post exchange restaurant at tables although the post exchange is supported by all soldiers. Negroes are employed only as men-

6. Although scout cars have been assigned to Colored cavalry posts, they are placed in charge of a private first class. Cars for white units have technical sergeants in charge whose pay is far greater for the same responsibility.

7. Most of the few Negro non-commissioned officers in responsible positions are unqualified. White officers who would fight for the rights of Colored soldiers are intentionally kept from Negro regiments. Those white officers willing to help "keep the Negro in his place" are the ones assigned to Negro units.

Mr. Pierce further points out that there are only two Colored line officers and two chaplains in the regular army out of a total of 14,000. The officers are Col. B. O. Davis, cavalry, who has not served with a cavalry regiment other than the Ninth many years ago, and Lieut. B. O. Davis, Jr., infantry, his son, who has been assigned to Tuskegee Institute in "another game of hide and seek." The chaplains are Col. Carter and First Lieut. Deveaux.

In 1866 four Negro regiments were created by congressional action and no additions have been made since despite the introduction of new arms and the formation of many new white regiments. On the basis of population ratios there should have been 10 percent or approximately 20,000 Negro soldiers before President Roosevelt's recent expansion moves, instead of the less than 4,000 there actually are.

Pierce says he knows soldiers who were court-martialed for not reporting on Sunday, a day of rest for white enlisted men, to take care of horses used in riding classes. These whites received riding training while Negro soldiers "were denied the use of horses for training other than to escort some general officer into or off the post or ride along as orderlies for white student officers."

# Veteran Of Ninth Cavalry Sends Open Letter To Woodring

U. S. Before Going Abroad To "Save Democracy" Reminded To Get Her Own House In Order First

CHICAGO, Oct. 12 (AP)—Sensational charges of official army discrimination against Negro soldiers equaled only by the Nazi attitude toward Jews in Germany are contained in an open letter sent this week to Secretary of War, Harry H. Woodring at Washington by Levi Pierce, veteran of 10 years service with the Ninth cavalry at Fort Riley, Kan., who recently obtained an honorable discharge and returned to Chicago. At the same time he says Negro commissioned officers would remedy most of these ills.

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## SEVEN MAIN CHARGES

Specifically, Mr. Pierce charges:

1. Soldiers of the Tenth cavalry are forced to work seven days weekly as orderlies for white student officers and to take care of horses used in women's and children's riding classes under penalty of court-martial.

2. Ninth cavalry soldiers get so little training that veterans of 25 years service cannot drill in simple military formations. What drills they get are after hours when they have worked all day as servants, grooms and stable boys.

3. Negro reserve officers are not given the opportunity to qualify for commissions in the regular army.

4. Colored soldiers are kept from attending many service schools even though passing all examinations for enrollment.

5. At Fort Riley, Kan., Ninth cavalrymen are Jimcrowed in the post exchange restaurant at three tables although the post exchange is supported by all soldiers. Negroes are employed only as menials in the post exchange both there and at Fort Leavenworth.

6. Although scout cars have been assigned to colored cavalry posts, they are placed in charge of a private first-class. Cars for white units have technical sergeants in charge whose pay is far greater for the same responsibility.

7. Most of the few Negro noncommissioned officers in responsible positions are unqualified. White officers who would fight for the rights of colored soldiers are intentionally kept from Negro regiments. Those white officers willing to help "keep the Negro in his place" are the ones assigned to Negro units.

While these are the main charges which Secretary Woodring is called upon to answer, there are others of vital importance to colored soldiers.

## TWO LINE OFFICERS, TWO CHAPLAINS

Mr. Pierce, a young man of keen intelligence, points out that there are only two colored line officers and two chaplains in the regular army

out of a total of 14,000. The officers are Col. B. O. Davis, cavalry, who has not served with a cavalry regiment other than the Ninth many years ago and Lieut. B. O. Davis, Jr., infantry, who has been assigned to Tuskegee Institute in "another game of hide and seek." The chaplains are Col. Carter and First Lieut. Deveaux.

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## PROPER TRAINING?

Declaring that Secretary Woodring has stated Negroes get proper military training at Fort Riley and Leavenworth, Pierce asserts:

"After serving under what you call proper training and also having served with the Tenth prior to the time it was merged literally into a labor detachment throughout the various posts and schools, I have found that none of the new men enlisted since 1931 could tell what a reconnaissance patrol is or how it works. They have no knowledge of combat training and I personally know that in the Ninth until Lieut. Col. J. M. Tully came to Fort Riley men with as much as 20 years' service were unable to drill in simple military formations."

It is an "unwritten law" to keep Negro officers out of the regular army, Pierce contends. As for attending service schools, the excuse is made that there is no money available for transportation, yet "white soldiers are sent from the same post to the same service school."

"Why were Ninth cavalry soldiers permitted to take examinations for the signal school at Fort Monmouth, N. J., and never given a chance to attend?" he asks Woodring. "Why are Negro soldiers excluded from each class of the finance school? From the quartermaster school at Philadelphia? From the chemical warfare school? You say there are no provisions whereby these men could be quartered. I am wondering if there will be any way in which these men can be quartered when shells are flying thickest."

## UNFAIR RESPONSIBILITY

Referring to scout cars granted the Ninth and Tenth since 1935 and under command of a private first class, Pierce declares, "It is unfair for a man rated at \$30 to \$40 monthly to have to assume the responsibility of a \$23,000 fully equipped scout car, while among whites an officer drawing not less than \$150 monthly is responsible for a \$10,000 air plane. Property value in dollars and cents should be as important to the government from one angle as from another. To place this obligation on a man without due recognition is unjust."

"In Ninth cavalry promotions, for example, they have been held down to the point of longevity rather than for efficiency. This has been true through all Negro regiments. Promotions have come from likes and dislikes. This has reduced the morale of the regiments and has caused the army to lose good men who would have been an asset."

In the Seventh corps area it is an unwritten law that no Negro from the regular army can receive a reserve commission, Pierce says. He and another soldier, Private Carl Russell, tried it and were turned down on physical qualifications "with enough defects to make each of us a corpse." Others have been rejected because of mental and technical qualifications.

## TO WAR IN 30 DAYS

Despite the pitiful lack of training, the Ninth will be given exactly 30 days to get ready for the firing line whenever war comes, according to official orders. Meanwhile, without colored officers the policy of suppression continues. Pierce says that Lieut. Col. T. F. Limbocker, executive officer of the Ninth, bases all his decisions on racial attitudes and

the belief that "a Negro is not equal to a white man."

From 1930-35, colored regiments were denied the right of promotions

except for one or two in the upper brackets. The my white air corps was formed and grades taken from colored units to make room for white soldiers, with the result that the total of Negroes enlisted dropped from 6,000 in 1931 to less than 3,080 today."

"Why are not Negro regiments moved from such prejudiced areas as those in which they are now placed?" he asks. "Why is it that in the Sixth Corps area a white sergeant is employed to instruct Negro R. O. T. C. students when many deserving noncommissioned officers of the 24th or 25th infantry or even the Ninth or Tenth cavalry could be assigned? Why delude the people into believing the soldiers do not want these assignments when it is a known fact that they not only want them but would cherish the opportunity?"

"The presence of Negro commissioned officers would go a long way toward changing these conditions. Yet even when war comes, there may not be many colored officers, for Pierce says he knows the "M" day organization of the Ninth "and not much of a provision is being made for permanent Negro officers."

It is not known yet whether Secretary Woodring will reply to the Pierce open letter.

# Veteran Of Ninth Cavalry Sends Open Letter To Woodring

**U. S. Before Going Abroad To "Save Democracy," Reminded To Get Her Own House**

## In Order First

CHICAGO, Oct. 12

(ANP)—Sensational charges of official

army discrimination against Negro soldiers equaled only by the Nazi attitude toward Jews in Germany are contained in an open letter sent this week to Secretary of War, Harry H. Woodring at Washington by Levi Pierce, veteran of 10 years service with the Ninth cavalry at Fort Riley, Kan., who recently obtained an honorable discharge and returned to Chicago. At the same time he says Negro commissioned officers would remedy most of these ills.

Mr. Pierce pointed out that army officials always deny any charges of unfairness and obtain statements from Negro noncommissioned officers saying that "all is well." These colored officers, it was declared, are forced to support officialdom if they intend to get any consideration in the future from those higher up.

### SEVEN MAIN CHARGES

Specifically, Mr. Pierce charges:

1. Soldiers of the Tenth cavalry are forced to work seven days weekly as orderlies for white students and take care of horses used in women's and children's riding classes, under penalty of court-martial.

2. Ninth cavalry soldiers get so little training that veterans of 20 years service cannot drill in simple formations. What drills fair for a man rated at \$30 to \$40 monthly to have to assume the responsibility of a \$23,000 fully equipped scout car, while among whites an air plane. Property value in dollars and cents should be as important for commissions in the regular army.

3. Negro reserve officers are not given the opportunity to qualify for commissions in the regular army.

4. Colored soldiers are kept from attending many service schools even though passing all examinations for enrollment.

5. At Fort Riley, Kan., Ninth cavalrymen are jimmied in the post exchange restaurant at three tables although the post exchange is open to the government from one angle as from another. To place this obligation on a man without due recognition is unjust.

6. Although scout cars have been assigned to colored cavalry posts, they are placed in charge of a private first-class. Cars for white units that have technical sergeants in charge whose pay is far greater for the same responsibility.

7. Most of the few Negro noncommissioned officers in responsible positions are unqualified. White officers who would fight for the rights of colored soldiers are intentionally kept from Negro regiments. Those white officers willing to help "keep the Negro in his place" are the ones assigned to Negro units.

While these are the main charges which Secretary Woodring is called upon to answer, there are others of vital importance to colored soldiers. These include TWO LINE OFFICERS, TWO CHAPLAINS

Mr. Pierce, a young man of keen intelligence, points out that there is the belief that "a Negro is not equal to a white man." There are only two colored line officers and two chaplains in the regular army.

out of a total of 14,000. The officers are Col. B. O. Davis, cavalry, who

has not served with a cavalry regiment other than the Ninth many years ago and Lieut. B. O. Davis, Jr., infantry, who has been assigned to Tuskegee Institute in "another game of hide and seek." The chaplains are Col. Carter and First Lieut. Deveaux.

In 1866 four Negro regiments were created by congressional action and no additions have been made since, despite the introduction of new arms and the formation of many new white regiments. On the basis of population ratios, there should have been 10 percent or approximately 20,000 Negro soldiers before President Roosevelt's recent expansion moves instead of the less than 4,000 there actually are.

Pierce says he knows soldiers who were court-martialed for not reporting on Sunday, a day of rest for white enlisted men, to take care of horses used in riding classes. These whites received riding training while Negro soldiers "were denied the use of horses for training other officers for white student officers."

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Declaring that Secretary Woodring has stated Negroes get proper military training at Fort Riley and Leavenworth, Pierce asserts:

"After serving under what you call proper training and also having served with the Tenth prior to the time it was merged literally into a labor detachment throughout the various posts and schools, I have found that none of the new men enlisted since 1931 could tell what a reconnaissance patrol is or how it works. They have no knowledge of combat training and I personally know that in the Ninth until Lieut. Col. J. M. Tully came to Fort Riley even with as much as 20 years' service were unable to drill in simple military formations."

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## Colored Officers or None

The War Department told the AFRO-AMERICAN last week, that the total number of colored soldiers in all the regular army units of these United States is 3,604 ~~of~~ American

Major Earl C. Ewert, speaking for the Secretary of War, said that the number of enlisted men bears no set ratio to the population, and that neither the law nor the army regulations bar these men from commissions as officers. 11-4-32

If the Russian Communists ever invade the United States, we suggest as a candidate for the firing squad such men as Major Ewert.

What Ewert said about the law and the army regulations is true, but he knows that minorities are entitled to government representation of all kinds on the basis of their population ratio.

With only two colored commissioned officers in the whole army, and neither of them assigned to colored regulars, Ewert knows as well as we know that color prejudice is operating.

But the moment war is declared and our country is in danger, Ewert will want to call out every able-bodied colored as well as white man, and, despite our lack of training and colored officers, we will be expected, at short notice, to fight against nationals who have had long years of military training.

And, if Major Ewert and Secretary Woodring do not know it, we venture here the informing prediction that in the next war colored troops are not going to fight under white regimental officers and like it.

# DWIGHT HOLMES OPPOSES NEGRO DIVISION OF ARMY, J. R. E. LEE FAVORS IT

segregation. I think we would do better still if we had a separate state, or a separate country. For CHICAGO. —(ANP)— Leaders of all practical purposes I am for separation. Negro thought continue divided on separation, or segregation if you call it that. This is not from choice, whether it would be better to have it that. This is not from choice, an all-Negro army division or something is from historical reason and continue as has been done in the past, tradition." this week's symposium by the Association of Negro  
ARMED  
FOR  
DEMOCRACY

Dr. D. O. W. Holmes, president of Morgan college, Baltimore, thinks it would be better to be organized in regiments which would be scattered throughout the army for, he say, "I am very much afraid that a Negro division would be given very difficult tasks to perform and the whole race would be blamed for any failure in the accomplishment of those tasks."

While he hopes America will not become involved in the new war he favors enlistment by the Negro should hostilities start. Another college president, Dr. Samuel N. Lang of Knoxville College, "envisages America sending over only supplies and equipment" if the war lasts long enough. He believes that formation of a Negro division should depend upon the race's opinion as expressed through a thorough canvass.

President J.R.E. Lee of Florida A. and M. Tallahassee, sees no racial advantage if war starts. He favors a Negro division and also hopes "President Roosevelt's conscience would enable the Negroes to get better recognition for their services at the close of such a war than they received during the war of 1914."

If the war lasts a year, America will enter it, thinks President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee. "I cause a nation is drawn closer together in periods of stress, the race would probably benefit. Since "it seems highly improbable that Negro officers would be permitted to command white soldiers and that segregation actually does exist in the way in which our army is organized," he favors a colored division.

One woman, Oneida Cockrell of Chicago, supreme basileus of the Phi Delta Kappa sorority, foresees America's entry in two years but can see no advantages for the Negro except perhaps temporarily to a limited degree economically. She opposes a Negro division because she feels it would be used to further curtail our rights as citizens.

President J. B. Watson of Arkansas State, Pine Bluff, does not believe America will be drawn in. However, he favors a Negro army division because "under present conditions we hardly have a chance to get to the top unless we accept

segregation. I think we would do better still if we had a separate state, or a separate country. For all practical purposes I am for separation, or segregation if you call it that. This is not from choice, it is from historical reason and tradition."

# **"BIG ARMY" PLANS GIVE RACE CHANCE TO DEMAND JUSTICE**

**Congress Will Be Asked to Provide for "Peace Time" Army of One Million—Race Will Have to Approve Taxes—Should Demand Fair Play from Representatives.**

By THEODORE BRATTON

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—With America facing the threat of war, according to inside sources of information, informed observers believe that the time rapidly approaches for the Negro, through his friends in the United States Congress, to strike a strong and decisive blow to assure him a man's status in the United States **PRESIDENT APPROVED COURIER PLAN** Army and Navy. Two years ago when The Cour-

**PRESIDENT APPROVED  
COURIER PLAN**

man's status in the United States Army and Navy.

It is no secret that secret preparations are being made in official quarters here to prepare for the worst, a war in which the United States would be forced to enter the ranks with France and England to protect and preserve the democratic form of government.

Two years ago when The Courier began its fight for equality in the Army and Navy for the Negro taxpayer and citizen, the President of the United States approved the suggestion of the editor of The Pittsburgh Courier that a complete division of Negro troops, including all services, be created in the army. The President has

If Germany should wres' se power from England, it is well known that the Atlantic ocean would no longer separate the United States from Europe's war.

It is no secret that the preparations for war include not only plans for making the United States Navy second to none, including that of England, but also for the creation of a "peace-time" army of one million thoroughly-trained men, the largest peace time army in the history of this country.

Congress is to be asked to levy a tax of billions of dollars on the American people, black and white, to support Americas "defense" in the air on the sea and on land.

House and the Senate, must be impressed that ten million citizens who love their country demand that their interests in its defense be protected and advanced.

In order to build the Army to more than a million men, its present strength will have to be more than doubled.

More than a month ago, the President recognized a limited emergency and authorized recruiting to build the Regular Army up to 230,000 and the National Guard to 235,000. However, the National Defense act allows for 280,000 Regulars and 450,000 National

Guardsmen, a total of 730,000, a total of 265,000 more than the President has already authorized. Negroes would bring this total to more than a million.

**CONGRESS MUST PROVIDE FUNDS**

The National Defense Act authorizes this large fighting force, but it does not provide the money. Congress must be prepared to demand when Congress convenes for the blow.

must be stipulated that it is to be used fairly in the interests of all the taxpayers.

Negroes are prepared in their hearts to meet any emergency, but intelligent leadership here believes that The Courier's fight to win proper recognition for them must carry directly into the forthcoming session. The iron will be hot and ready.

## Colored Officers or None

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Major Earl C. Ewert, speaking for the Secretary of War, said that the number of enlisted men bears no set ratio to the population, and that neither the law nor the army regulations bar these men from commissions as officers.

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fair play for the Negro citizen in

the Army, Navy and Air Corps.

Members of Congress, of the

SOLDIERS- 1939  
REGIMENTS, REGULAR ARMY

# 10th Cavalrymen

*Afro-American*

10-14-29

## Just Servants

*Afro-American*  
Veterans in Army 20 Years

Cannot Drill in Simple Formation; Colored Regulars Under F. D. Reduced from 6 Thousand to 3 Thousand

CHICAGO (ANP)—Sensational charges of official army discrimination against colored soldiers equaled only by the Nazi attitude toward Jews in Germany are contained in an open letter sent this week to Secretary of War Harry H. Woodring at Washington by Levi Pierce, veteran of ten years' service with the Ninth Cavalry at Fort Riley, Kan. Pierce recently obtained an honorable discharge and returned to Chicago. At the same time he says colored commissioned officers would remedy most of these ills.

Mr. Pierce pointed out that army officials always deny any charges of unfairness and obtain statements from colored non-commis- sioned officers, saying that "all is well." These colored non-coms, it was declared, are forced to support offi- cialdom if they intend to get any consideration in the future from those higher up.

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# MAJOR RALPH LOVETT BRANDS AS RUMOR STORY THAT 369TH WILL GO TO PANAMA CANAL

## Ninth and Tenth Cavalry Regiments of New York Will Be Reorganized Into New Army Program

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)—Branding as pure rumor any story that the famous 369th infantry of New York city or any other national guard unit for that matter would augment the defense units in the Canal Zone at Panama, Major Ralph A. Lovett of the U. S. army declared that only such organizations as were in the regular army would be called upon to perform such duties.

Discussing the reorganization of cavalry regiments according to the new program adopted by the U. S. army, Major Lovett said the Ninth and Tenth would be reorganized into the new formations as soon as they can be reached and equipment is available for outfitting the two famous regiments. However, there will be no increase in the personnel of these two units.

When questioned as to the presence of Negro doctors in the regular army, Major Lovett said there were none as far as he knew. However, he promised to look into the situation and give a statement with regard to this particular phase of military affairs at an early date.

"I have been in the army for 23 years," said Major Lovett, "and I have served with only one Negro regiment and that is the Twenty-fourth. I have first hand information on them and I know they are real soldiers. If there is any doubt about their ability, just get them out on the rifle range and you'll find out just what they stand for."

Having no information on the other units of Negro troops in the regular army, Major Lovett said he was not familiar enough with them to discuss their various phases. However, he was loud in praise of his old regiment, the Twenty-fourth, and said he was almost willing to measure them against any other outfit in the service.

In discussing the Thomas act of a few years back, Major Lovett said this act precluded any Negro or any other officers in the medical detachment of the army because the exams were open for competition for the rank of second lieutenant. Some 1,000 of these were appointed with the majority of them going to the combat units with a few being sent to the ordnance and signal corps.

SOLDIERS- 1939  
REGIMENTS, REGULAR ARMY

# Reveal U. S. Already Has Plans For Race Soldiers In Case Of War

WASHINGTON.—(ANP)—"M" day for the man on the street, white and black, is an ominous day—for it means the day that the United States calls its citizens into war. An "M day" plans are all carefully worked out and ready to be put into execution the day the United States finds itself involved in a war. Right now, there is a determined effort being made to keep the U. S. out of war, but whether this is possible, no one knows. 9-10-39

And of special importance to Negroes are the orders which already have gone forth and are in the hands of reserve officers of the army. Definite in their instructions, they reveal, according to some who have received instructions, that the 428th regiment, composed entirely of officers in the adjacent district to Washington and nearby states, are to report immediately to designated camps upon receiving notice that war has been declared.

There they are to enter an intensive training period of 60 days to fit them for the new methods of modern warfare and to instruct them in the present arrangement of the army units. So far different are they from the old order, it will require at least two months for the instruction of officers to familiarize themselves with the alignment.

At the time their training period is ended, there will be one million men in camp for instruction and training.

An official bulletin reads: "An army of almost 1,000,000 men could be drafted within 90 days if a war developed involving the United States, under plans developed by military authorities in connection with the National Defense program.

"The plan was drafted by the joint army and navy selective service committee, which estimates that there are about 41,000,000 males between 18 and 64 years old of whom about 26,000,000 are between 18 and 45 years, the 'normal' military age.

"The older men would be fitted into industry, agriculture and other major jobs."

Already the place of the Negro in this plan has been fully discussed, although Major Lovett of the Army Information service could give no exact details on the matter.

Said Major Lovett, "Negroes as a whole resent being shoved into labor battalions and work units. There are many who do not belong in such units, the same as there are many whites who do belong in such units."

This indication is that Negroes have been given very serious consideration, although there is general opposition to making entire Negro units labor or work units as many

were made in the last war.

Contrary to general belief, according to a person who held a very high post in the last war there were many white units similar to the Negro units engaged in stevedoring and labor problems.

Yet, a general discussion has been engaged in by men now identified with the military service and those formerly connected with the service in an effort to stave off this wholesale regimentation of Negroes to the Service of Supply as the stevedore and work units are known.

During the last war, there were about 2,000,000 men serving in the American Expeditionary forces and in the army in general. Of this number, approximately ten percent or 200,000 were Negroes and saw service.

It is generally accepted that only about 50,000 Negroes were in the combat units and divisions, the remainder being in service outfits.

Various plans have been devised for Negroes, but to date, nothing has been revealed as to the general outcome of the schemes.

In this area, there are large numbers of Negro officers in the reserve corps, all of whom have their orders.

The tendency in this next war, should it come, will be to eliminate the officer training camps as conducted in the last war, and depend entirely upon the reserve officers and those coming up from the summer training camps.

# FDR Urged to Remove Army, Navy Barriers

*Journal 6 Grade 9-23-37*  
NEW YORK, N. Y.—President Roosevelt, in his capacity as commander in chief of the United States army and navy, has been asked to appoint a mixed commission "to make a thorough investigation of the nature and extent of racial discrimination now existing in the armed forces" of the country.

The request, which came from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was contained in a letter sent to the nation's Chief Executive, September 15.

The letter states unequivocally that, despite the fact that this country faces the possibility of being drawn into a second world war, the barbarism of which already appalls the world, "democracy is still denied to Negro Americans in the armed forces of the United States."

The letter, which is signed by Walter White, executive secretary of the association, calls upon President Roosevelt to use his powers to remove these racial barriers before this country is drawn into war. The complete text of the letter follows:

"The world stands appalled at the reversion to barbarism in Europe. So-called civilized men are demonstrating that the only difference between them and jungle dwellers is the superiority of the weapons of destruction of their fellow-men which so-called civilized beings have invented.

"There are many here and abroad who fear that our own country may, sooner or later, be drawn into the conflict. May God grant that this be averted.

## PREJUDICE RIFE

"But we shall not close our eyes to the possibility that the United States may be led by events and forces to set forth once again to save democratic government.

"If that unhappy time comes there will once again be appeals to Negro Americans to help 'make the world safe for democracy' even to the extent of laying down their lives.

"But even in the face of this possibility, democracy is still denied to Negro Americans in the armed forces of the United States. Rank race prejudice is rife in every branch of the armed forces of our government—army, navy, aviation, the marine corps, and every other department.

"Even in the construction of ships for our Merchant Marine, which ships may play a very important part both in our national security and in our economic well-being, there is gross discrimination against qualified Negro workers.

## Race Is Still Ignored In Army

WASHINGTON—(ANE)—Detailed plans perfected by the war department indicate an increase in the regular land forces of the United States government to a total of 600,000, including the latest demand for 138,000 more men.

House appropriations members predict that from \$850,000,000 to \$1,250,000,000 would be sought for the army aside from other appropriations, to pay the cost of increases ordered by the president in proclaiming a limited national emergency. *Early to end* *10-22-39*

increased the regular army to an are being treated.

peacetime record total of 227,000. In connection with the usages of the army and so forth, an interesting occurrence in New York brought to mind forcibly the in- and outs of the situation.

## TAKES OFF UNIFORM

A Negro captain in the French army, was returning to France from a tour of duty in Indo-China. Wishing to see Harlem and the much discussed and widely advertised Negro sections of our other large cities, he traveled the longest way home, *Atlanta, Ga.* *10-22-39* *way of San Francisco, the* across the continent.

## FORM FOUR DIVISIONS

The latest recruits, formed into four divisions and auxiliary units, then will be moved to the training areas for similar schooling next spring.

Aside the recruiting of the Jim Crow quartermaster units for Negroes, nothing new along this line has been attempted, neither has the New Deal in the limited national emergency offered any hope to Negroes for enlistment in new combat units which of a necessity done to make the captain comfortable.

Of course, having served in the navy department as assistant secretary of the Navy during the World war, little can be told the president concerning conditions existing there as he is more or less an authority on naval affairs and advised by an official to go as a

But in the army where red tape civilian and not in his uniform! and prejudice go hand in hand. There was some fear of misunderstanding old line soldiers are writing in dis-standing and complications, seeing gust at the manner in which they a Negro in a French officer's uni-

form.

The captain was thrilled with the visit to the Point but expressed his disgust at seeing the Negro quarters for Negro troops and the segregation practiced. It was explained to him that these Negroes were serving as riding instructors etc, for the cadets to which the astonished Frenchman replied "that's all the more reason they should have the better quarters."

SOLDIERS- 1939  
REGIMENTS, REGULAR ARMY

# WRITES SEC'Y OF WAR: CITES MISTREATMENT

## Scores Lack of Military Training

By ASSOCIATED NEGRO PRESS

Sensational charges of official army discrimination against Negro soldiers equaled only by the Nazi attitude toward Jews in Germany are contained in an open letter sent this week to Secretary of War Harry H. Woodring at Washington by Levi Pierce, veteran of 10 years service with the Ninth cavalry at Fort Riley, Kan., who recently obtained an honorable discharge and returned to Chicago. At the same time he says Negro commissioned officers would remedy most of these ills.

Mr. Pierce pointed out that army officials always deny any charges of unfairness and obtain statements from Negro noncommissioned officers saying that "all is well." These colored officers, it was declared, are forced to support officialdom if they intend to get any consideration in the future from those higher up.

### Seven Main Charges

Specifically, Mr. Pierce charges:

1. Soldiers of the Tenth cavalry are forced to work seven days weekly as orderlies for white student officers and to take care of horses used in women's and children's riding classes under penalty of court-martial.

2. Ninth cavalry soldiers get so little training that veterans of 20 years service cannot drill in simple military formations. What drills they get are after hours when they have worked all day as servants, grooms and stable boys.

3. Negro reserve officers are not given the opportunity to qualify for commissions in the regular

army.

4. Colored soldiers are kept from attending many service schools even though passing all examinations for enrollment.

5. At Fort Riley, Kan., Ninth cavalrymen are jam-crowded in the post exchange restaurant at three tables although the post exchange is supported by all soldiers. Negroes are employed only as menials in the post exchange both there and at Fort Leavenworth.

6. Although scout cars have been assigned to colored cavalry posts, they are placed in charge of a private first-class. Cars for white units have technical sergeants in charge whose pay is far greater for the same responsibility.

7. Most of the few Negro noncommissioned officers in responsible positions are unqualified. White officers who would fight for the rights of colored soldiers are intentionally kept from Negro regiments. Those white officers willing to help "keep the Negro in his place" are the ones assigned to Negro units.

While these are the main charges which Secretary Woodring is called upon to answer, there are others of vital importance to colored soldiers.

### Two Line Officers, Two Chaplains

Mr. Pierce, a young man of keen intelligence, points out that there are only two colored line officers and two chaplains in the regular army out of a total of 14,000. The officers are Col. B. O. Davis, cavalry, who has not served with a cavalry regiment other than the Ninth many years ago, and Lieut. B. O. Davis, Jr., infantry, who has been assigned to Tuskegee Institute in "another game of hide and seek." The chaplains are Col. Carter and First Lieut. Deveaux.

In 1866 four Negro regiments were created by congressional action and no additions have been made since despite the introduction of new arms and the formation of many new white regiments. On the basis of population ratios, there should have been 10 percent or approximately 20,000 Negro soldiers before President Roosevelt's recent expansion moves instead of the less than

4,000 there actually are.

Pierce says he knows soldiers who were court-martialed for not reporting on Sunday, a day of rest for white enlisted men, to fully equipped scout car, while a take care of horses used in riding classes. These whites received riding training while Negro soldiers "were denied the use of horses for training other than to escort some general officer into or off the post or ride along as orderlies for white student officers."

### Proper Training?

Declaring that Secretary Woodring has stated Negroes get proper military training at Fort Riley and Leavenworth, Pierce asserts:

"After serving under what you call proper training and also having served with the Tenth prior to the time it was merged literally into a labor detachment throughout the various posts and schools, I have found that none of the new men enlisted since 1931 could tell what a reconnaissance patrol is or how it works. They have no knowledge of combat training and I personally know that in the Ninth until Lieut. Col. J. M. Tully came to Fort Riley men with as much as 2 years' experience were unable to drill in simple military formations."

It is an "unwritten law" to keep Negro officers out of the regular army, Pierce contends. As for attending service schools, the excuse is made that there is no money available for transportation, yet "white soldiers are sent from the same post to the same service school."

"Why were Ninth cavalry soldiers permitted to take examinations for the signal school at Fort Monmouth, N. J., and never given a chance to attend?" he asks Woodring. "Why are Negro soldiers excluded from each class of the finance school? From the quartermaster school at Philadelphia? From the chemical warfare school? You say there are no provisions whereby these men could be quartered. I am wondering if there will be any way in which these men can be quartered when shells are flying thickest?"

### Unfair Responsibility

Referring to scout cars granted the Ninth and Tenth since 1935 and under command of a private

first class, Pierce declares, "It is those in which they are now placed?" he asks. "Why is it that in the Sixth Corps area a white sergeant is employed to instruct Negro R. O. T. C. students when many deserving noncommissioned officers of the 24th or 25th infantry or even the Ninth or Tenth cavalry could be assigned? Why elude the people into believing the soldiers do not want these assignments when it is a known fact that they not only want them but would cherish the opportunity?"

The presence of Negro commissioned officers would go a long way toward changing these conditions. Yet even when war comes here may not be many colored officers, for Pierce says he knows from likes and dislikes. This has reduced the morale of the regiments and has caused the army to lose good men who would have Negro officers."

In the Seventh corps area it is an unwritten law that no Negro from the regular army can receive a reserve commission, Pierce says. He and another soldier, Private Carl Russell, tried it and were turned down on physical qualifications "with enough defects to make each of us a corpse". Others have been rejected because of mental and technical qualifications.

### To War in 30 Days

Despite the pitiful lack of training, the Ninth will be given exactly 30 days to get ready for the firing line whenever war comes, according to official orders. Meanwhile, without colored officers the policy of suppression continues. Pierce says that Lieut. Col. T. F. Limbocker, executive officer of the Ninth, bases all his decisions on racial attitudes and the belief that "a Negro is not equal to a white man."

From 1930-35, colored regiments were denied the right of promotions except for one or two in the upper brackets. The lily white air corps was formed and grades taken from colored units to make room for white soldiers, with the result that the total Negroes enlisted dropped "from 3,000 in 1931 to less than 3,080 today."

"Why are not Negro regiments moved from such prejudiced areas

# FORMER NINTH CAVALRYMAN IN OPEN LETTER TO SECRETARY OF WAR MAKES SEVEN CHARGES OF DISCRIMINATION

**Levi Pierce, Ex-Soldier With Honorable Discharge, Says Official Jim-Crowism Approaches Nazi Tactics**

**CHICAGO.**—(ANP)—Sensational charges of official army discrimination against Negro soldiers equaled only by the Nazi attitude toward Jews in Germany are contained in an open letter sent this week to Secretary of War Harry H. Woodring at Washington by Levi Pierce, veteran of 10 years service with the Ninth cavalry at Fort Riley, Kas., who recently obtained an honorable discharge and returned to Chicago.

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#### Unfair Responsibility

Referring to scout cars granted the ninth and Tenth since 1935 and under command of a private first class, Pierce declares, "It is unfair for a man rated at \$30 to \$40 monthly to have to assume the responsibility of a \$23,000 fully equipped scout car, while among white an officer drawing not less than \$150 monthly is responsible for a \$10,000 airplane. Property value in dollars and cents should

be as important to the government from one angle as from another. To place this obligation on a man without due recognition is unjust."

"In Ninth cavalry promotions, for example, they have been held down to the point of longevity rather than for efficiency. This has been true through all Negro regiments. Promotions have come from likes and dislikes. This has reduced the morale of the regiments and has caused the army to lose good men who would have been an asset."

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"Why are not Negro regiments moved from such prejudiced areas as those in which they are now placed?" he asks. "Why is it that in the Sixth Corps area a white sergeant is employed to instruct Negro R. O. T. C. students when many deserving noncommissioned officers of the 24th and 25th infantry or even the Ninth or Tenth cavalry could be assigned? Why delude the people into believing the soldiers do not want these assignments when it is a known fact that they not only want them but would cherish the opportunity?"

The presence of Negro commissioned officers would go a long way toward changing these conditions. Yet even when war comes, there may not be many colored officers, for Pierce says he knows the "M" day organization of the Ninth "and not much of a provision is being made for permanent Negro officers."

It is not known yet whether Secretary Woodring will reply to the Pierce open letter.

SOLDIERS- 1939  
REGIMENTS, REGULAR ARMY

# Davis Should Go Back In Army, Says Flipper

By ROBERT M. RATCLIFFE

What will be the status of the Negro in the United States Army if this country enters the present European war?

This was the question put up to Henry Ossian Flipper, 83, former second lieutenant in the U. S. Army, who also holds the distinction of being the first colored man graduated from the United States Military Academy.

Sitting in the dining room of the home of his brother, Bishop J. S. Flipper, who resides at 488 Houston Street, NE, the former army lieutenant gave these opinions:

1. Colored soldiers should not have a separate unit in the U. S. Army.

2. Colored soldiers will receive the same treatment in the next war as U. S. Army to send me there, but was their lot in the World's War.

3. There isn't a Negro in this country (and a very few white request. He did, and I was permitted to stay with my regiment," he continued.

## WOULD INCREASE SEGREGATION

Explaining his points, Mr. Flipper said a separate army unit for Italy took Ethiopia. Had the world given more impetus to segregation in this country, that Negro soldiers to put pressure on Italy, Ethiopia will receive the same status in the U. S. Army if this country should the Italians today.

go to war because Negroes have received very little military training Italy got Ethiopia, the power-mad since the World's War, and that Hitler grabbed up Austria and colored soldier is not capable of Czechoslovakia and then marched commanding an army division through Poland. All of which encourage Japan in her war with given the chance of commanding China.

any sort of military group. Mr. Flipper declared that Civil War proved that there are such a war should be staged. After giving up army duties, very few white men who are capable of handling a division, which is composed of several thousand fighting soldiers.

## DAVIS PRACTICALLY OUT OF ARMY

Referring to Lieutenant B. O. Davis, Jr., United States Military Academy graduate now stationed at Tuskegee Institute, Flipper said Davis is practically out of the army now.

## Says No Negro Capable Of Commanding Army Division

"Every colored officer should war right now. If Germany and her allies whip France and England nob with higher officers. A colored officer should learn how to command a company too. A man who is not with his regiment is just about out of the army.

The much-traveled gentleman is taking life easy now, studying at "Lieut. Davis should be with his home and reading. Mr. Flipper regiment now. He really isn't said he is physically weak now and needed at Tuskegee," insisted Mr. Flipper.

Three years. He was 83 years old last March. He never has been married.

"When I came out of the Military Academy, a college tried to get me.

Henry Ossian Flipper has enjoyed a very colorful career. He was born in Thomasville to Festus and Isabella Flipper. The father was a shoemaker. Five sons were born to this couple and all are living.

The oldest brother is J. S. Flipper, presiding bishop of the AME District of South Carolina. Henry Ossian was the second son. The others are Festus Flipper, Jr., of Thomasville; Dr. Emory H. Flipper, Jacksonville, Florida; and Prof. Carl Frederick Flipper of Ga. State College, Savannah.

**STATIONED AT FORT SILL** After being graduated from the U. S. Military Academy in 1877, Henry Ossian Flipper, then a second lieutenant in the U. S. Army was station at Fort Sill (Indian territory now the state of Oklahoma).

He served several posts in Texas before leaving the army in 1882.

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Democratic freedom," declared Mr. Flipper.

## AMERICA WON'T ENTER WAR, BELIEF

He believes this present war will last three or four years, but does not think America will enter the Mexico and Arizona, determining titles to Mexican and Spanish land

"I think America should enter the claims.

## ENGINEER IN MEXICO

With this task completed, he went back to Mexico and worked as a resident engineer for a mining company. In 1919, Mr. Flipper returned to Washington and became the translator for the Senate Committee investigating Mexican affairs. He held this job two years.

He was the assistant to the Secretary of Interior for two years and then went to Buenos Aires in South America and worked seven years with the Panepco Oil Company.

# Highlights of Negro History

## BLACK REGIMENTS AT THE FRONT. HOUSTON

This unit won immortal glory at Ord shows: Carrizal. Although outnumbered ten to one, these black calvarymen, led by Major James E. Walker, the colonel commanding, kept such vigilance mounted in the face of withering machine gun fire, deployed duty. He died April 4, 1918, the first officer of the District of Columbia to give his life for his country in the World War. In the plains and the conquering of conflict over seas, the 31st Regt. the hostile Indians. In the Inauguration of black soldiers was the first draft unit to take the trenches. The black 369th was on the ranks of the army.

Negro soldiers never forsake firing line four days longer than their officers. John Temple Graves any other unit of the United States troops.

the Negro paid this tribute to the heroism of our soldiers at Card of the Negro soldier, brief but  
rival. "There Peter Bigstaff, a conclusive, we advance to the facts  
black trooper fought side by side found by investigation of the Na  
with his commander. When the National Association for the Advance  
revolver fell from his hand, Bigstaff of Colored People, about the  
staff pressed another into it and Houston Riot. It was not the 1st  
together they 2134 thinned the swoop-time that soldiers of the army  
ing circle of overwhelming odds regardless of color, had rioted: but  
against them. When Addir fell, lit-what they sought to uncover was  
terally shot to pieces, with his why the 24th regiment ranking so  
head in the water, with superb loy-high in the army record of dis  
ality the black troop lifted him discipline should murder innocent  
and leaned him against a tree, people. The report says that the pri  
leaving the dead in dignity." The report says that the pri  
mary cause of the riot was the ha

At the beginning of the World War, when the nation was questioning the loyalty of the hyphenated Americans, we did not know whether their allegiance could be counted upon or not by the country of their adoption; though the war taught us much in favor of their integrity. In this hour of uncertainty, the Secretary of War, Newton D. Baker knew one group to which he could turn for undoubted loyalty.

He called for the defense of the National Capitol and the government buildings a black Unit, the First Separate Battalion of the District of Columbia Infantry, of the National Guard March 25, had Corporal Lee Sparks and Rufe Daniels, former alleged by the colored people.

pie to be a brutal bully—entered the home of a respectable colored woman, claiming to be in search of a colored fugitive. Failing to find him, they arrested the woman, forcing her out in the street partly clothed, striking and cursing her.

A crowd had gathered about the woman who had never been arrested before. She had become hysterical and was begging to know why she must leave her children. Her baby had been taken away from her by the officer and thrown down. Private Edwards (colored) came up to secure her clothes and take charge of her. The white officers immediately set upon him, beating him to the ground.

Corporal Baltimore, colored, a member of the police of that district, approached and inquired for Private Edwards, as was his duty. Officer Sparks immediately opened fire. Baltimore, being unarmed, fled. The two officers followed firing at him in a street full of women and children. They afterwards said that they fired at the ground. They secured Baltimore and beat him. Officer of the United States Army, meant nothing to their morning intelligence.

This was the outrage that infuriated the 24th. There had been lax discipline, promiscuous visiting, drinking and immorality; yet the worst features of the Houston Riot are in no way comparable to the East St. Louis Massacre. These men were angry from wrong and injustice. There was no burning of women and children or torturing of innocent victims. White people were given arms to protect their homes, while the arms of Negro civilians were taken away.

SOLDIERS- 1939  
REGIMENTS, REGULAR ARMY.

# Tells Of Mistreatment Accorded Negro Soldiers

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WRITES OPEN LETTER TO SECRETARY OF WAR  
WOODRING

## Says Black Soldiers In U. S. Service Are Only Servants Of White Officers

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# Flunkey Roles For Race Soldiers Still The Vogue At Fort Riley

Corr. 10-21-39 Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Purchase of Discharges Banned Although Enlistment  
of Negroes in Combatant Units Not Allowed—  
Race Soldiers Work While White Soldiers Relax.

CHICAGO, Oct. 19—(ANP)—The United States Army, because of the European war situation and the American expansion program, has barred any further purchases by enlisted men of discharges from the army, the Associated Negro Press learned this week. The new ruling has just gone into effect. It was also learned that despite President Roosevelt's orders to bring the various units up to full peacetime strength, no increase has been allowed Negro units in the Seventh Corps Area, although white outfits in Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota will be materially increased.

Negro soldiers meanwhile continue working under varied handicaps. At Fort Riley, Kans., during target season, colored soldiers must get up at 4 a.m., go to the range, return at 11, eat dinner, then report to their jobs as flunkies which lasts until 5 p.m. White soldiers at the same post are allowed to relax during the afternoons after going to the range.

At the same time, white officers in charge of Negro units are said to expect as much of the latter as of white soldiers who handle arms during the entire season.

## TWENTY YEARS AFTER

As the United States pours out a stream of tax money to rearm for the seemingly inevitable Second World War and colored Americans clamor to learn what their status will be in the enlarged Army, Navy and Marine Corps, *The Crisis* performs a service in carrying in its February and March numbers the disgraceful story of the treatment of Negro soldiers and sailors in the First World War.

Walter Wilson's two articles leave a sickening feeling in the pit of the stomach as one learns the unbelievable lengths to which the U. S. Government went to humiliate and discredit the black man in uniform.

Apparently nothing was too low and petty for prominent officials to do to the Negro's loyalty, from openly scheming to make the Negro soldier and sailor appear cowardly and inefficient to deliberately urging the French citizens not to treat the colored American soldiers as equals for fear of "spoiling them."

Twenty years after this terrible ordeal that began with insult and ended with race riots, colored citizens who are being taxed to help bear the huge new burden of armament have a right to ask "Shall it be again?"

Millions now living who went through that national nightmare, see nothing in the present military policy to make them optimistic.

The 6,000 additional warplanes voted by Congress, will, according to present plans, be neither piloted nor serviced by Negroes.

The Signal, Engineer, Tank and Medical Corps are to remain lily-white, apparently.

The big guns, the light artillery and the warships, will continue to draw the color line in personnel, unless a big change occurs soon.

Twenty years after the last war we seemingly have made no progress at all in the armed forces of the nation.

Atlanta Ga. Journal  
September 25, 1939

### Army Will Enlist 171 Negro Applicants

The Atlanta Recruiting District of the U. S. Army has received authority to enlist 171 Negro applicants, it was announced Monday by Col. D. D. Tompkins, recruiting officer for Georgia and Florida.

Twenty-five may be enlisted in the Twenty-fourth Infantry and 146 in the Quartermaster Corps, Forty-eighth Quartermaster Regiment at Fort Benning.

Applicants must be single, between the ages of 18 and 35, and be able to pass prescribed physical and mental tests.

# WEST POINT UNIT TRAINED IN ANTI- AIRCRAFT WORK

**Squadron Also Specializes In Use of Radio—Enjoys "A" Rating in Efficiency—Soldiers, Proud of Contribution to Training of Cadets, Spike Unsavory Rumors.**

By EDGAR T. ROUZEAU  
Staff Correspondent

WEST POINT, N. Y., May 4.—The Pittsburgh Courier because it believes in the fundamental rights of one and all has committed itself to a campaign whose aim is to enable every American Negro to make the most of his intelligence and initiative when he takes up arms in defense of his country.

Criticism has come from a few war-hating pacifists, but apart from these, all elements are in accord with The Courier's fight to place the Negro on an equal footing with his white comrades in the Navy, and to secure the integra-

- 3.—Supplied the Second Squadron with armored scout cars for multivarious purposes.
- 4.—Entrusted to the Second Squadron the highly important task of imparting cavalry technique to the U. S. Cadets at the military academy here.
- 5.—Assigned to the squadron the very best in field radio equipment.

There is also the matter of precedence in receiving equipment. The squadron here at West Point is comprised of 2 troops immediately. Under the present and 1 light machine gun platoon. It is recruited to about 92 percent of its peace-time strength and is comprised of 6 officers and 236 men, including non-commis-  
sioned officers. The squadron is commanded by Major Marion Carson, whose name is not least. One special weapons troop, and last but not least, one special weapons troop. The equipment of this last named troop is more or less a War Department secret, but might mean

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## The 'Fighting Tenth' In Pictures!

PICTURES . . . Exclusive . . . and the first to be published . . . will show Courier Readers what the Second Squadron of the Tenth Cavalry does at West Point!

### KITCHEN DUTY? . . . SERVANTS? . . . NO! NO!

They're being trained in the use of radio and anti-aircraft defense . . . TURN TO PAGE 24!

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For the early success of this campaign, much will depend on the fate of a bill now pending action in Congress. Introduced by Representative Hamilton Fish (Rep., N.Y.) it embodies most of the objectives for which The Courier stands, and the strongest argument in its favor is the

salient fact that Congressional legislation was required to guarantee the existence of the only colored unit in the standing army of this country. Back in 1866, Congress, in its reorganization bill, made provisions for four Negro regiments—two of cavalry and two of infantry. These were designated as the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry and the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Infantry. We have them today, but they are all, and it is connote respect for a particular regiment or outfit. In this connection it might be said that the Tenth Cavalry was the fifth such regiment to be provided with scout cars, and in radio equipment it was among the first. In the event of war, the Tenth Cavalry, being a combat unit, would be mobilized for war service each consisting of 2 rifle platoons standing orders, it would be comprised of three squadrons of three cent each. In addition to 1 major and 1 adjutant, 1 headquarters, 1 headquarters gun troop, 1 headquarters service troop, and last but not least, one special weapons troop. The equipment of this last named troop is more or less a War Department secret, but might mean

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Back in 1866, Congress, in its reorganization bill, made provisions for four Negro regiments—two of cavalry and two of infantry. These were designated as the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry and the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Infantry. We have them today, but they are all, and it may not be amiss to point out that the door of opportunity in the other branches of the Army has remained closed to Negro soldiers even during the stress of war.

Some skeptics (and we are thankful to say that none of them were Negroes) have voiced doubts as to the ability of Negro soldiers to absorb the technical knowledge required in the tank corps, the artillery and similar branches.

In rebuttal, it can be said that the Army General staff at Washington thinks differently. As proof, the General staff has done the following for the Second Squadron, Tenth Cavalry, stationed here at West Point:

- 1.—Provided the squadron with the most modern anti-aircraft guns obtainable.
- 2.—Equipped the regiment with the very latest in machine guns.

- 3.—Supplied the Second Squadron with armored scout cars for multivarious purposes.
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There is also the matter of precedence in receiving equipment. While to the lay mind this point might be insignificant, in the army it connotes respect for a particular regiment or outfit. In this connection it might be said that the Tenth Cavalry was the fifth such regiment to be provided with scout cars, and in radio equipment it was among the first.

In the event of war, the Tenth Cavalry, being a combat unit, would be mobilized for war service immediately. Under the present standing orders, it would be comprised of three squadrons of three troops each, in addition to 1 machine gun troop, 1 headquarters and service troop, and last but not least, one special weapons troop. The equipment of this last named troop is more or less a War department secret, but might mean anything, even including tanks.

The squadron here at West Point is comprised of 2 troops each consisting of 2 rifle platoons and 1 light machine gun platoon. It is recruited to about 92 percent of its peace-time strength and is comprised of 6 officers and 286 men, including non-commissioned officers. The squadron is commanded by Major Marion Carson, whose name is rich in military tradition. He is a soldier's son who believes that

the best is none too good for his men, and on his recent visit here this reporter was compelled to listen to many accounts from the enlisted personnel as to how "the Major went to bat" to get this and that for his men. Because of his efforts, many of the men have received special training in various army schools, and this particular squadron has an "A" rating as one of the most efficient, best disciplined and best equipped cavalry units in the entire country.

During the months since The Courier launched its campaign, many members of its staff have been button-holed by individuals who wanted to know just what The Courier contemplated doing for the cavalry unit at West Point whose members, they claimed were being used as servants for the cadets at the military academy.

Such statements are purely figments of the imagination, as many members of the squadron, old and new, have taken the trouble to assure me. In the words of one of them, First Sergt. Benedict Mosely, he has seen twenty-one years of service at the post and has his first time to wait on a cadet. He pointed out that he is almost ready for retirement and has nothing to gain from prevarication.

#### SHOULD KEEP OUR HANDS OUT OF EUROPEAN MESS

Major Carson explained that every branch of the Army, with the exception of aviation, is represented at West Point, since the training of the cadets is a very rounded one. It was simply chance that brought a colored cavalry unit to West Point instead of a white one. In fact, prior to 1907 all of the cavalry detachments at the military academy were white, and the men of the Second Squadron are particularly proud that they have the opportunity to contribute to the training of some of the country's future generals.

(Additional photos and a second installment of this feature will be published in an early issue.)

Of course, no member of a minority group can love Hitler very much, nor can Negroes feel very warm toward Mussolini after the rape of Ethiopia. But it must be remembered that these companies are trying to do by force what France and England have done for centuries by force.

The latter countries that stand for so-called democracy are the chief imperialists exploiting weaker people all over the world.

I do not believe America is menaced in any way whatsoever by Italy or by Germany. And I have no fear that America will become a fascist state unless it does so from the forces already here. America can well turn its attention to establishing an ideal democracy here as an example to all the world how it can be made to work.

President J. R. E. Lee of Florida A. and M. College concurs, but

# MAJORITY FAVOR NEGRO REGIMENTS IF WAR DOES COME

CHICAGO, May 11. (ANP)—America's Negro leaders—as well as whites who by virtue of being presidents of colored colleges are also forced into the role of Negro leadership—are opposed to American participation in the current European imbroglio, but adds that the Negro should adopt whatever attitude the nation as a whole adopts. On military service, he says:

#### SHOULD SERVE IN EVERY DIVISION OF ARMY, NAVY

"Negroes should approach the war department and President Roosevelt, and get assurance that all Negroes will not be used in pioneer or labor battalions. The government should grant Negroes the opportunity of serving in every division of the army and navy

Independent Negro divisions furnished the opportunity for Negro soldiers—the opportunity I do not believe they will get if such divisions are not formed. There is the possibility that Negro divisions may be officered by Negroes throughout. They do not have such an opportunity in a mixed division."

Negro and white soldiers will not work together harmoniously, says President J. B. Watson of Arkansas State college in agreeing with separation of army units. One who shares this opinion is President W. L. Wright of Lincoln University, Pa., Charles H. Houston, N. A. A. C. P. legal counsel, favors acceptance of Negro units "only as a starter," and if it is made clear the race stands for complete integration into all branches of the service, and suggests a hands-off attitude for America as long as it does not advance the interests of fascist nations.

#### JUDGE COBB FAVORS SEPARATE ARMY UNITS

Judge Cobb of Washington likewise favors no meddling in Europe, and advocates equal treatment for the Negro soldier, with separate army units "only if that is the only way treatment can be equalized."

Perry Howard, Republican leader, thinks Negroes should stand by their country at all times and should object "even to the breaking point" at being used for labor battalions any more than whites.

He is opposed to segregation in any form, but points out "unfortunately for economic reasons, especially in our school systems, we have allowed segregation and placed ourselves in an embarrassing position."

#### SAYS CANADA WILL BE 'DICTATOR' OUTPOST

According to J. Franklin Wilson, prominent Washington attorney, the U. S. should lend its moral support to settling the European crisis for "unless England survives, Canada will be one of the dictators' outposts and the United States will be in the middle of a bad fix."

"Negroes should give practical demonstrations of loyalty when our country calls." He considers separate army units "the lesser of two evils" also there would be small chance for advancement of Negro officers.

President W. J. Hale of Tennessee State college is opposed to separate army divisions on the ground that "further separation may be dangerous." He does not favor a completely hands-off attitude in European affairs, and thinks the race should have an attitude in sympathy with that existing throughout the nation.

#### PRESIDENT GALLAGHER COMPLETELY A PACIFIST

Completely a pacifist is President Buell G. Gallagher of Talladega college. "I am one of those who believes the individual ought to refuse to bear arms," he says. "This applies not merely to wars of aggression, but also to so-called wars of defense."

"So far as I can see, there is no difference between the two. There has never been a war in history which was not labeled a war of defense by those who fought it on either side."

"I think it is wrong—dead wrong—for any man, white or Negro, to go into military service. I therefore feel that it is doubly wrong for any man, white or Negro, to take a position of leadership in the army or navy, and as an officer lead his fellow race members on to the slaughter."

# ANOTHER ARMY BILL WHICH IGNORED RACE, BLOCKED IN SENATE

There is pending in the House Military Affairs Committee a bill introduced by Representative Hamilton Fish, Republican, of New York, providing for the appointment of at least two colored cadets to West Point by the President each year. To date the committee has failed to hold hearings on this measure. Organizations and individuals interested in the bill for the appointment of at least two colored cadets to West Point by the President each year and also the Fish bill providing for the appointment of at least two colored cadets to West Point by the President each year. To date the committee has failed to hold hearings on this measure.

As is the case under existing law of the appointment of cadets to the United States Military Academy allowed to the District of Columbia from five to nine was blocked in the Senate last Thursday by Senator Charles L. McNary, of Oregon, the pointed out the District of Columbia and Representative of the District of Columbia and only minority leader. In objecting to consideration of the bill he took the position that the five cadets allowed from the District of Columbia, the four additional appointments for which are no better under existing law. The effect of the bill would be made upon the recommendation that States with populations similar to the District of Columbia additional appointments for which are no better under existing law. The effect of the bill would be made upon the recommendation that the total authorized by the Cadet Corps from District of Columbia and only four additional appointments would be ap-

the best is none too good for his men, and on his recent visit here this reporter was compelled to listen to many accounts from the enlisted personnel as to how Major went to bat to get this and that for his men. Because of his efforts, many of the men have received special training in various army schools, and this particular squadron has an "A" rating as one of the most efficient, best disciplined and best equipped cavalry units in the entire country.

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(Additional photos and a second

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&lt;

SOLDIERS\* 1939  
REGIMENTS, REGULAR ARMY.

## Governor Reviews 369th

### In Peekskill

*Journal  
National Guard  
and  
Unit Officers*

#### Complimented

*9-23-39*

PEEKSKILL, N. Y.—(ANP)—The roads leading to Peekskill were crowded of last week with more than 25,000 persons who motored here to see Governor Herbert Lehman make the annual review of the 369th infantry, New York National Guard.

Major General Haskell and Assemblyman William T. Andrews welcomed the governor to the camp. After introduction to the various commissioned officers, the governor left on a tour of inspection and complimented officers at the end of his trip.

#### NEW RECORD

Col. B. O. Davis is commanding officer of the regiment which is nearly up to full peace time strength. All of the 67 officers and 1,038 of the 1,046 enlisted men were present at the camp this year, a new record for them.

Before concluding their prescribed two weeks at camp, men and officers staged mimic warfare over a period of four days.

## TEXT OF STATEMENT ON NEW ARMY UNITS

*Carrier 9-3-39*

*Complete text of statement by Major General Emory S. Adams, adjutant general of the United States Army, last Friday, regarding increases in the Negro combat personnel.*

*Reedburgh, Pa.*

"The War Department has given a great deal of study to this subject but has found it impracticable heretofore to create units other than those existing colored organizations.

"However, I may state that in the authorized increases incident to the recent Presidential proclamation, it is contemplated organizing a certain number of Regular Army units with Negro personnel. These units will be among the first to be organized and will constitute a part of a combat corps.

"The Secretary of War in his discretion is authorized by Act of Congress to lend aircraft, aeronautical equipment and accessories of the Air Corps to civilian aviation schools designated by the Civil Aeronautics Authority for the training of Negro pilots.

"Under this authority the War Department proposes to cooperate with the Civil Aeronautics Authority by lending such equipment as may be deemed necessary for one school to train Negro pilots, such school to be designated and operated by the Civil Aeronautics Authority.

"The War Department mobilization plan, which has been in process of preparation for many years, has always provided for a number of Negro combat units, including Infantry, field artillery, coast artillery, cavalry, and engineers. However, it must be borne in mind that the present increase, as authorized by the President for the Regular Army and National Guard, is in no sense to be considered as a mobilization.

"The increase, in general, will be applied to raise those units to their full peace strength which are considered most necessary for the proper observance, safeguarding, and enforcing of the neutrality of the United States and the strengthening of our national defense within the limits of peace time authorizations. No units will be raised to war strength."

## Quartermasters' Regiments Now Being Recruited; Troops Classified as Combatants

Two new colored regiments are being recruited for the regular Army of the United States, in keeping with the President's recent order to build up the Army to a fuller peace-time strength by the addition of 227,000 men, it was learned from reliable government sources this week.

Six companies are called for at present for the 48th Quartermasters' Regiment, three of which will be stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina; two at Fort Benning in Georgia, and one at Fort Knox in Kentucky.

Four companies of the 47th Quartermaster's Regiment, now in formation, will be recruited. Headquarters of this Army unit are at Fort Lewis in the State of Washington. One company will be located at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, and three at Fort Lewis.

Questioned as to whether these two regiments would be fighting troops or non-combatants, the official said that they were classified as combatant troops. Although quartermaster troops handle food and supplies for the fighters, these troops will be combatant in the sense that they will be "right along" with the fighting troops in case of a war, it was explained by the official, upon further questioning.

#### Open to Volunteers

Already recruiting stations are open to register volunteers in the various areas of the country. The exact number of men to be recruited in the new regiments could not be obtained. However, with approximately 78 men to the company, it is estimated that the regiments will have an initial strength of about 500 men each.

There are only two other colored regiments now a part of the Regular Army. They are the 24th and 25th Infantries. Each is short one battalion at present. The matter of increasing them is under consideration, it was learned, but plans have not yet been completed.

Increasing the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry units is also under consideration by the War Department. They are the only colored cavalry regiments. The authorized strength of the Ninth Cavalry is 428 men, while that of the Tenth is 760 men.

# Ask Annapolis West Point Drop Barriers

## Restrictions May Cause Loss of Enthusiasm

**BOSTON, Mass.** — (ANP) — Ademocracy. America's economic, complete end to race prejudice and political and social attitudes toward an opportunity for Negroes to en-the members of the colored race is list in the army and navy on thealike subversive and undemocratic. basis of fitness and intelligence is There is no wide divergence be-asked in a communication sent to between the two attitudes. The aim government officials in Washington and practices of each have a ten- ton by the United colored Wardency to defeat Christianity and Veterans of America signed by to cripple humanity. Stephen Douglass, national com- mander, and Monroe Mason, ad-more firmly or more loyally behind the president in his attitude on war jutant.

"In any government defense plan against the pending effects of Hitler's madness to be successful must take in all groups of our patriotic population," the state-ment says. "When it comes to national defense, the colored youth of America must be considered. They will constitute a very large share of the military manpower of the future as soldiers and sailors of to-morrow. In its preparations those who have such matters in control should, of necessity, make their plans on the basis of equality for all racial groups. It should be fair and free from official bias."

## PREJUDICE SHOULD GO

"The time has come when the bars of prejudice should be banished and the opportunities for enlistment in the service of the country should be thrown open to all citizens on the sole basis of fitness, intelligence and capabilities. Colored youth will not be enthusiastic for entering any approaching conflict hampered, as were the conditions in the past, by racial prejudices.

"Traditions that have kept the youth from serving our common country according to fitness in the past decades have been and are abominable. Those prejudicial precedents that governed naval and military policies in all past wars have to be scrapped in order that love of country and patriotism may increase the zeal in all for service and loyalty.

"Proscriptions at West Point and Annapolis should no longer be allowed or condoned. All this is racial intolerance and racial in-

tolerance should never have any place in the scheme for our national defense. The army and the navy must be purged of all racial restrictions.

## 700,000 ELIGIBLES

"America has 700,000 able-bodied colored eligibles, including youths available for the next war. This is equivalent to 12 army divisions, or 40 naval fleet divisions, according to present tables of organization. Should America continue to discriminate as ruthlessly as in the past against such potential and available manpower?

"Hitler's world defiance and his mad pursuit of the policy of obnoxious dictatorship is repulsive to us all, and contrary to our ideals of

as soon as possible before the quota runs out, Sergeant Napier said. Two such applicants reported yesterday afternoon and it is expected that many more will be coming in. All those accepted will be forwarded to Atlanta at government expense for final enlistment.

Macon, Ga., News  
October 4, 1939

## Negroes Wanted For Army Service

### Orders Received Here to Enlist Them Quickly

The United States army apparently wants a large number of recruits in a hurry for its Negro 48th Quartermaster regiment at Fort Benning, according to Sgt. William P. Caskey, head of the local sub-station.

He received orders this morning to enlist as many Negro men for this branch of the service as were eligible in the shortest time possible, he said.

For the first time in 10 years the sub-stations of Georgia will be allowed to enlist Negroes, he said. Those wishing to apply formerly were required to report at their own expense directly to Fort Benning for preliminary enlistment procedures, he said.

Quota for the Negro quartermaster corps will be unlimited until further notice from headquarters, the sergeant said.

Rome, Ga., News-Tribune  
October 5, 1939

## Negro Recruits Asked By Army

### Americus, Ga., Recorder October 6, 1939

## Negro Applicants Accepted In Army By Recruiter Here

Colored applicants are now being accepted for Army service at the recruiting station, located on the third floor of the city hall here. There are, at the present time, vacancies for colored applicants in the 48th quartermaster regiment at Fort Benning, Ga.

This quota is at present unlimited, the officer said. However, it is required that the quota be filled as soon as possible by desirable colored men who can meet the requirements for enlistment, Sergeant Napier said. "This is considered a fine opportunity as enlistment of colored applicants has up to the present time been very limited."

All colored applicants who are

unmarried and are between the ages of 18 and 35 should apply at the local recruiting station in the Floyd county court house building

Applicants must be able to pass the mental and physical examination and must be between the ages of 18 and 35. The mental examination is equivalent to about an eighth grade grammar school education. Applicants must also be prepared to show certificates of good character.

SOLDIERS- 1939  
REGIMENTS, REGULAR ARMY

# Seek Regiment In Mo. Militia

## Recall That Negro Companies

### Once Saved City Of St. Louis

NOW UNDER FEDERAL  
CONTROL

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—(SNS) — Fifty years ago the Missouri National Guard was honored with two Negro companies. With the military spirit on the rise again, the St. Louis NAACP has as a part of its 1939 program the re-entry of Negroes in this important service.

"We feel that we owe this country, Artillery, and Aviation, some of duty to our State and Country," Attorney S. R. Redmond, president of the branch, stated. "In event of war or riots we should have at least a regiment of young men from Kansas City. Six other states ready to serve. As citizens of Missouri and as taxpayers we must assume full duties and responsibilities, just as we demand equal rights and privileges with other citizens."

ONCE 2 COMPANIES

Research by the branch's investigator revealed that the Missouri militia has had Negro members. There were two companies in St. Louis from 1875 to 1895. One was the Attuck Guard with 94 trained men and 3 officers. The Sumner Guard, with 72 men and 3 officers, was the other company.

In the destructive Railroad Strike of 1877, when mobs threatened the city, there were only 3 companies of the National Guard in St. Louis. Two of them were Colored companies, the Attuck and Sumner Guards. Mayor Overholt and the Police Department were helpless to maintain order.

On appeal to the Governor these companies were called out and rushed to the scene of trouble. Both Colored companies served with distinction, the Adjutant record showed. Order was restored and life and property preserved.

However, despite the fine service of these early Negro Guardsmen they were disbanded before the Spanish-American War (1898).

sons, especially in our school systems, we have allowed segregation and placed ourselves in an embarrassing position."

According to J. Franklin Wilson, prominent Washington attorney, the U. S. should lend its moral support to settling the European crisis for "unless England survives, Canada will be one of the dictators outposts and the United States will be in the middle of a bad fix. Negroes should give practical demonstrations of loyalty when our country calls." He considers separate army units "the lesser of two evils" else there would be small chance for advancement of Negro officers.

President W. J. Hale of Tennessee State College is opposed to separate army divisions on the ground that "further separation may be dangerous." He does not favor a completely hands-off attitude in European affairs, and thinks the race should have an attitude in sympathy with that existing throughout the nation.

"Negroes should approach the war department and President Roosevelt, and get assurance that all Negroes will not be used in pioneer or labor battalions. The government should grant Negroes the opportunity of serving in every division of the army and navy. Independent Negro divisions furnish the opportunity for Negro soldiers—the opportunity I do not believe they will get if such divisions are not formed. There is the possibility that Negro divisions may be officered by Negroes throughout. They do not have such an opportunity in a mixed division."

Completely a pacifist is President Buell G. Gallagher of Talladega College. "I am one of those who believes the individual ought to refuse to bear arms," he says. "This applies not merely to wars of aggression, but also to so-called wars of defense. So far as I can see, there is no difference between the two. There has never been a war in history which was not labeled a war of defense by those who fought it on either side. I think it is wrong—dead wrong—for any man, white or Negro, to go into military service. I therefore feel that it is doubly wrong for any man, white or Negro, to take a position of leadership in the army or navy, and as an officer lead his fellow race members on to the slaughter."

Negro and white soldiers will not work together harmoniously, says President J. B. Watson of Arkansas State College in agreeing with separation of army units. One who shares this opinion is President W. L. Wright of Lincoln University, Pa.; Charles H. Houston, NAACP legal counsel, favors acceptance of Negro units "only as a starter," and if it is made clear the race stands for complete integration into all branches of the service, and suggests a hands-off attitude for America as long as it does not advance the interests of fascist nations.

Judge Cobb of Washington likewise favors no meddling in Europe, and advocates equal treatment for the Negro soldier, with separate army units "only if that is the only way treatment can be equalized." Perry Howard, Republican leader, thinks Negroes should stand by their country at all times and should object "even to the breaking point" at being used for labor battalions any more than whites. He is opposed to segregation in any form, but paints out "unfortunately for economic rea-

## Negro Regiment Favored By Majority If War Comes; Race Advised To Go Along With Rest Of Nation

CHICAGO, May 28—(ANP)—America's Negro leaders—as well as whites who by virtue of being presidents of colored colleges are also forced into the role of Negro leadership—are opposed to American participation in the current European imbroglio, but should the United States become involved the race should stand shoulder to shoulder with the nation's white citizens, a survey by the Associated Negro Press discloses.

At the same time it was revealed that most of these leaders favor Negro divisions in the army and do not want participation in military affairs confined to labor battalions. Those voicing opinions were not only college presidents, but heads of leading organizations and a few outstanding political leaders.

Typical of prevailing sentiment is the attitude of Dr. D. O. W. Holmes, president of Morgan College, Baltimore, who says, "From the standpoint of an American Negro citizen, I think very definitely that our country should keep our hands out of the

"I do not believe America is men-

# Hit Jim-Crow In Army Set-Up: Decry Confinement Of Colored Soldiers To Labor Battalions

## Races, However, Will Fight Shoulder To Shoulder If Country Becomes In- volved, Leaders Say

CHICAGO, May—(ANP)—America's Negro leaders—as well as whites who by virtue of being presidents of colored colleges are also forced into the role of Negro leadership—are opposed to American participation in the current European imbroglio, but should the United States become involved, the race should stand shoulder to shoulder with the nation's white citizens, a survey by the Associated Negro Press discloses.

At the same time, it was revealed opportunity in a mixed division" that most of these leaders favor Negro Negro and white soldiers will not divisions in the army and do not want work together harmoniously, says participation in military affairs con- President J. B. Watson of Arkansas fined to labor battalions. Those voic- State College, in agreeing with separating opinions were not only college pres- tion of army units. One who shares dents, but heads of leading organiza- this opinion is President W. L. Wright tions and a few outstanding political of Lincoln University, Pa. Charles H. eaders.

### 'EUROPEAN MESS'

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keep our hands out of the European Judge Cobb of Washington likewise mess. In my opinion there is consid- favors no meddling in Europe, and erable hypocrisy in talking about sup- porting France and England against soldier, with separate army units "only the dictators. Of course, no member if that is the only way treatment of a minority group can love Hitler can be equalized."

very much, nor can Negroes feel very Perry Howard, Republican leader, warm toward Mussolini after the rape thinks Negroes should stand by of Ethiopia. But it must be remem- their country at all times and should bered that these companies are trying object "even to the breaking point" to do by force what France and Eng- at being used for labor battalions any land have done for centuries by force. more than whites.

The latter countries that stand for so- President W. J. Hale of Tennessee called democracy are the chief imper- State College is opposed to separate ialists exploiting weaker people all over army divisions on the ground that the world.

"further separation may be dangerous" President J. R. E. Lee of Florida A. & M. College concurs, but adds that ly hands-off attitude in European af- the Negro should adopt whatever atti- fairs, and thinks the race should have tude the nation as a whole adopts. On an attitude in sympathy with that existing throughout the nation.

"Negroes should approach the war Completely a pacifist is President department and President Roosevelt, Buell G. Gallagher of Talladega Col- and get assurance that all Negroes will lege. "I am one of those who believe not be used in pioneer or labor battal- the individual ought to refuse to bear ions. The government should grant arms," he says. "This applies not Negroes the opportunity of serving in merely to wars of aggression, but also every division of the army and navy. to so-called wars of defense. So far Independent Negro divisions furnish as I can see, there is no difference be- the opportunity for Negro soldiers—the tween the two."

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## HARLEM REGIMENT ARRIVES IN CAMP 369th Infantry Will Begin Its Summer Training Today

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PEEKSKILL, N. Y., Sept. 3.—The 369th Infantry regiment of Harlem, the only Negro unit in the State Guard, marched into Camp Smith here today to begin the last two weeks of the Summer encampment of the New York National Guard, commanded by Maj. Gen. William N. Haskell. It displaced the 245th Coast Artillery of Brooklyn under command of Colonel Charles S. Gleim, whose members made new rifle records for themselves during their four months here.

With a personnel of sixty-six officers, one warrant officer and 1,046 enlisted men, the unit is made up entirely of Negroes, commanded by Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, one of the two active Negro line officers in the regular army, whose appointment as a colonel in the New York National Guard was confirmed by Governor Herbert H. Lehman last year.

The incoming regiment, New York's youngest Guard unit, will celebrate its fifteenth birthday on Wednesday.

Active training will begin tomorrow with the infantrymen taking up rifle and machine gun practice.

The staff officers assisting Colonel Davis are Lieut. Col. Chauncey M. Hooper, executive officer; Captain James W. Johnson, Adjutant; Captain Harry B. Reubel, Assistant

Plans and Training Officer; Captain John A. McDonald, Supply Officer; Captain Benjamin C. Robe, Regimental Chaplain; Captain Robert E. Carter, Regimental

NEGRO REGIMENT  
ENDS BUSY WEEK

Members of Harlem's 369th Infantry Find Few Idle Moments in Peekskill

GOVERNOR AT CAMP TODAY

Review Expected to Attract  
More Than 35,000 Visitors  
to Training Area

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PEEKSKILL, N. Y., Sept. 9.—A rigorous week of training completed today by Harlem's Negro visitors' day, the Negro infantry unit of the New York National Guard at Camp Smith here,

was marked by the enthusiasm crowded the area last year. Spec- with which the members of the regiment details of troops will assist the 369th Infantry took part in the post military police unit in the exacting duties imposed upon them by their commander, Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, who is also a colonel in the regular army, with forty-one years of service.

Adhering to principles that he acquired in service in the regular army, the Negro commander of the 369th, appointed a year ago by Governor Lehman, believes in hard work and plenty of it. Few idle moments were found in the week by the sixty-seven officers and 1,038 enlisted men, comprising 99.28 per cent of the regiment's strength.

Officers and men, having become familiar with their commander's efforts to make the regiment one of the best-drilled infantry units in the country, agreed that his methods had been productive of a better-trained unit. The morale of every man in the regiment was never better, Captain James E. Johnson, Adjutant, said today.

With only two of the regiment's members in the post hospital because of minor ills, the week was spent in practice or shooting for record with rifles, automatic rifles, howitzers and machine guns on the various ranges of the reservation.

The incoming regiment, New York's youngest Guard unit, will on Monday and Tuesday the rifle practice was finished late on Monday, which enabled the infantrymen

to conclude their shooting for record with the rifle by Tuesday evening. Combat training, in which the men took up firing in squads, and

various terrain exercises mapped by Major Demaurice Moses, plans and activities for the remainder of the week.

Plans and Training Officer; Captain John A. McDonald, Supply Officer; Captain Benjamin C. Robe, Regimental Chaplain; Captain Robert E. Carter, Regimental

With 500 riflemen on the range much pleasure that Colonel Davis noted the increase in the number of qualified men over last year. The number of those qualifying, as officially announced by Major Gen. William N. Haskell, commander of the New York National Guard, was 67 experts, 77 sharpshooters and 194 marksmen.

Tactical training in the bivouac area at Amawalk, for which the infantrymen have been preparing this week, will begin on Tuesday and end on Friday. Occupying the area will be the headquarters, howitzer, service and medical companies and the three battalions commanded by Majors Rufus A. Atkins, Wilmer F. Lucas and Ira L. Aldrich. Colonel Davis and his staff will observe the manoeuvres, consisting mainly of offense and defense problems conducted under cover of darkness as well as during the day in a simulated battle.

Tomorrow Governor Lehman, as the guest of General Haskell, will make the former's first visit this year to Camp Smith. He will review the 369th at about 5 P. M. Always attracting the largest assemblage at the reservation on visitors' day, the Negro infantry unit of the New York National Guard at Camp Smith here, men expect to act as host to even more than the 35,000 persons who



## STRIKE ONE!

With the Senatorial agreement to an amendment to the Air Corps expansion bill providing that at least one colored school shall be lent flying equipment for the training of colored pilots, The Pittsburgh Courier has registered the first strike on the prejudiced military and naval clique that has effectively barred the Negro from national defense.

*Courier 3-25-39*

There is a tremendous amount of work still to be done before Negroes will obtain the same rights and privileges as other American citizens in national defense, but this is a fair beginning.

*Editorial 4-8-39*  
What is now needed is:

- (a) Admission of Negro applicants to army flying schools.
- (b) Admission of Negro applicants to navy flying schools.
- (c) Enlistment of Negroes in ALL branches of the army and navy.
- (d) Wider representation of Negroes in the various National Guard units.
- (e) Acceptance of Negroes into the Naval Militia and Coast Artillery units of the National Guard.
- (f) Authorization of a minimum number of appointments of Negroes each year to the Military and Naval Academies at West Point and Annapolis.

The Pittsburgh Courier is glad to see other Negro newspapers taking up this fight for equal opportunities for Negroes in the costly war machine for which they are taxed along with other Americans.

The Pittsburgh Courier started this fight over ten years ago and has kept at it in season and out, not only spending thousands of dollars writing to prominent people in public and private life, but giving national publicity to their views and even sponsoring the bills which Representative Hamilton Fish of New York introduced to end the color bar in the military and naval forces.

The Pittsburgh Courier now calls upon its great army of readers, the hundreds of thousands of Negro veterans of the Spanish-American and World Wars, the thousands of Negro clubs and associations, and the Negro public generally to get behind this fight with all the facilities they possess.

Individuals and groups should send letters, telegrams and postcards NOW to their Senators and Representatives in Washington, to the Chairmen of the House and Senate Military Committees, and to President Roosevelt, urging them to back the fight against the color bar in the Army, Navy, Air and Marine Corps, the Coast Guard and the National Guard.

Hundreds of conventions and conferences will be held within the next few months, and each one of them should draw up resolutions supporting this campaign and send copies to the individuals mentioned above.

Every effort should be made to persuade white individuals and organizations to do likewise.

If we act as a unit, consistently and persistently flooding Washington with demands for a square deal for Negroes in the national defense machine, we shall eventually strike the traditional color bar.

Those who would be free must strike the first blow.

~~Corps~~ the Chemical Warfare Service, the Field Artillery, the Coast Artillery, and the Air Corps.

### LESS THAN 2,000 NEGRO NATIONAL GUARDSMEN

The actual strength of the Regular Army on November 30 was 12,632 commissioned officers and 166,900 enlisted men, exclusive of Philippine Scouts.

The actual strength of the Cadet Corps at the United States Military Academy on January 11 was 1,774, including four native Filipinos and three foreign cadets.

Only one of the cadets is colored.

The current War Department appropriation act provides for a National Guard strength of 205,000 officers and enlisted men. Less than 2,000 are colored.

There are 226 senior units of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at various institutions throughout the country.

Only two of them—one at Howard and the other at Wilberforce—are at colored institutions.

The only remedial legislation proposed to do away with racial discrimination in the Army, and increase colored personnel—enlisted and commissioned—is the two bills introduced by Representative Hamilton Fish, Republican, of New York.

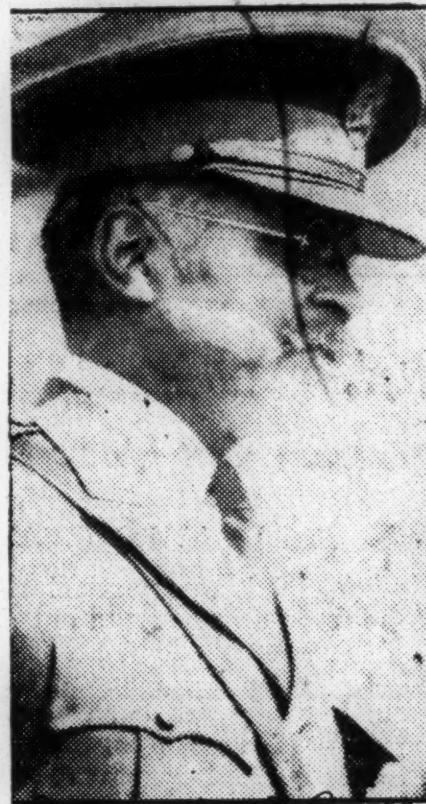
### COMMITTEE IS NOT FAVORABLE TO BILLS

These measures are now pending before the House Committee on Military Affairs, of which Representative Andrew J. May, of Kentucky, is the chairman.

Hearings on these bills are desired, but the committee is none too favorably disposed toward the bills.

Individuals and organizations who believe that colored personnel should be increased in the Army and integrated into all branches of the Military Establishment should immediately write their Senators and Representatives or adopt resolutions and forward them to the Speaker of the House and the Vice-President, urging passage of the Fish Army Bills, H. R. 3317 and L. R. 3318.

## Commander



COL. B. O. DAVIS, commander of the ~~Harlem~~ unit of the New York National Guard, also known as the 369th Infantry, who is carrying the unit through its second and final week of summer training at Camp Smith, New York.

WASHINGTON.

Colonel B. O. Davis satisfactorily completed his first year as the first colored commander of the famous ~~Harlem~~ 369th Infantry on Saturday, despite previous fears that the strict regulations he would demand would not be willingly absorbed by the men.

When Governor Lehman appointed Colonel Davis, a Regular Army man of forty years experience, as commander of the National Guard unit, it was believed and integrated into all branches of the Military Establishment should have been an unwise move.

### Has Officers' Okey

But today, the troops have met his requirements and are better soldiers because of them, the officers of the 369th agree.

The officers ~~feel~~ the drive that Colonel Davis has put behind the regiment. They have sessions with the commander at the armory, never less than two nights a week and often four.

Colonel Davis believes that weekly drills and fifteen days of field training a year are not sufficient for the full development of leaders.

The regiment has 67 officers and

1,046 enlisted men. The officers and training officer; Captain Benjamin C. Robeson, and Captain R. S. Carter, surgeon, and Captain H. B. Rubet, assistant ~~plans~~ ~~and~~ ~~officers~~ ~~who~~ ~~have~~ ~~lauded~~ ~~Colonel~~ ~~Davis~~ ~~plans~~ ~~and~~ ~~training~~ ~~officer~~; Captain J. W. Johnson, adjutant; Lieutenant Colonel C. M. Hooper, executive officer; Captain J. A. McDonald, supply officer; Major D. Moses, plans and training officer; Captain H. B. Rubet, assistant

Colonel Davis  
Not Too Tough  
for N.Y.'s 369th

SOLDIERS- 1939  
REGIMENTS, REGULAR ARMY.

# FISH BILLS PLACE CONGRESS 'ON SPOT', ACTION IS DEMANDED

*Coronado 3-4-39*  
New York Representative Wants Army "Jim Crow" Outlawed — Also Wants President To Name Negro Youths To West Point/Annapolis.

*Reuter*  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 2—As more and more bills are introduced in Congress to carry out the recommendations

## Mr. President

When war comes again we want our black boys to be **SOLDIERS**, not **SERVANTS**. We are asking you to remove the discrimination in the Army and Navy, in the Air Corps and other technical services so that our boys can be more than **CANNON FODDER**. You told us you favored a **NEGRO DIVISION** in the United States Army. With increased appropriations for defense, we request that you **ACT NOW** to create this division.

Name .....

Address .....

*(Cut out the above letter and mail it to President Roosevelt, White House, Washington, D. C.)*

of the President relating to a national defense program, it becomes more apparent that the status of colored personnel in the military and naval establishments will remain the same unless guarantees of no discrimination are written into such measures before they become law.

### BILL WOULD AMEND NATIONAL DEFENSE ACT

With a view of giving colored personnel an opportunity for advancement and integration into all branches of Army, Representative Hamilton Fish, Republican, of New York, introduced in the House last Thursday, a bill to amend the

It provides that "There shall be no discrimination against Negroes in the appointment and promotion of officers or enlisted men in the various establishments" composing the Regular Army.

He also reintroduced his bill authorizing the President to appoint two colored youths each year to the United States Military Academy.

### FAILED TO OFFER BILL CREATING NEGRO DIVISION

He did not, however, offer the bill he introduced last year, providing for the creation of a whole colored division in the Army.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which has followed a policy of passivity so far as the status of colored personnel in the Army and Navy is concerned, refused to indorse the bills providing for the appointment by the President of at least two colored youths annually to West Point and the creation of a colored division in the Army.

It indorsed with reservations, the bill prohibiting discrimination in the appointment and promotion of officers or enlisted men in the various branches of the Army.

### ONLY FOUR COLORED OFFICERS IN U. S. ARMY

At present, there are only four colored officers and about 3,853 colored enlisted men in the Army. With the exception of Col. Benja-

## WRITE NOW!

Attention, American Legion Posts and other organizations!

Write your Senators and Representatives at Washington, D.C., urging them to support:

H.R. 3317, providing for the appointment of at least two Negro cadets to West Point each year by the President.

H.R. 3319, prohibiting discrimination against Negroes in the appointment and promotion of officers in the various branches of the regular army.

min O. Davis, who is detailed to duty with the 369th Infantry (New York National Guard), the officers and men are all assigned to the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry and Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Infantry.

No colored officers or enlisted personnel are assigned to the Field Artillery, the Coast Artillery, the Coast Artillery Corps, the Air Service, the Engineer Corps, or the Signal Corps.

The expansion of the Air Corps is the phase of the national defense program in which Congress is particularly interested. Senator Morris Sheppard, Democrat, of Texas, introduced last Monday a bill authorizing the Secretary of War to detail personnel of

Regular Army as students at any technical, professional, or other educational institution, or as students, observers, or investigators at industrial plants. and the integration of such personnel into all branches of the military establishment.

In introducing his bills, Mr. Fish issued a statement declaring that "with the President's recommendations for increased armaments before the Congress, we must obtain the greatest possible amount of national defense with the funds involved.

"I know from war service overseas that foreign governments, particularly Great Britain and France, have always used colored soldiers in their armed forces. The Senegalese, colored French soldiers, served throughout the World War with distinction.

"In our Army, we do not permit colored men to serve in the Coast Artillery, the Signal Corps, the Engineer Corps, the Chemical Warfare Service, the Field Artillery, the Tank Corps, and special services such as the Army Air Corps.

If we are to provide the maximum national defense, we must do away with these discriminations against any element of our population."

## Introduces Bill To Remove Restrictions In Army On Negroes

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Representative Hamilton Fish on Thursday introduced three bills aimed at removing certain discriminations affecting Negro citizens.

Mr. Fish said: "With the President's recommendations for increased armaments before Congress, we must obtain the greatest possible amount of national defense with the funds involved.

"One of the bills I introduced opens up all branches of the regular army to colored soldiers. I know from war service overseas

that foreign governments, particularly Great Britain and France, have always used colored soldiers in their armed forces. The Senegalese, colored French soldiers, served throughout the World War with distinction. In our Army we do not permit colored men to serve in the Coast Artillery, the Signal Corps, the Engineer Corps, the Chemical Warfare Service, Field Artillery, the Tank Corps and special services such as the Army Air Corps. If we are to provide the maximum national defense we

### MUST OBTAIN GREATEST NATIONAL DEFENSE

They should also urge the enact-

must do away with these discriminations against any element of our population."

Another bill introduced by Mr. Fish provides for the appointment of two colored Cadets to West Point annually by the President. Under this proposal, after four years there would be eight such Cadets at the Academy, two being appointed each year through competitive Civil Service examinations until a total of eight is reached. In time of war, or emergency, these colored officers could be assigned to colored troops.

Mr. Fish also introduced the identical bill in the House to the Wagner-Van Nuys-Capper anti-lynching bill, drafted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

## CCC Director Opposes Plan For Compulsory Training For U. S. Army

WASHINGTON, Mar. 2—(ANP)—If Robert Fechner, CCC director, has anything to do with it, there will be no compulsory military training in CCC camps, he told the American Civil Liberties union last week.

Speaking for the CCC administration, Fechner said, "My position is now as it always has been. I do not believe that there is any need or justification for compulsory military training or military training of any character as the term is usually understood in CCC camps."

Recently Representative Richards of South Carolina introduced a bill in the House which would require all CCC members, except war veterans, to have six hours of military drill a week.

IT IS significant too, that no increase is recommended in the enlisted attainments of the War Department since the World War. listed personnel of 165,000 of whom less than 4,000 are colored.

It would seem that this objective can only be reached if Congress is willing to include in its plans for national defense all citizens alike regardless of race.

THE question of the enlargement of the part colored personnel will have in the country's protective mobilization plans daily becomes more and more pressing as Congress considers the largest War Department bill in peacetime history calling for a 1940 appropriation of \$499,857,936.

Pacifists to the contrary notwithstanding, the United States CAN become involved in a war of major proportions. While this would assure an increase in colored personnel and its integration doubtful at present, it would appear that the country is making some effort to be prepared in order to be caught napping as we were back in the dark days of 1917.

The appropriation bill represents an increase of \$39,656,682 over current appropriations, and includes a supplemental estimate of \$50,000,000 for airplanes. Provision is also made for 456 additional officers, and here is where the Negro segment of the country's population is most vitally concerned. For out of the present commissioned strength of 12,760 officers, only FOUR are colored.

The protective mobilization plan of the War Department calls for an initial force of 400,000 Regular Army and National Guard troops to be augmented with a force of 730,000 men plus 230,000 replacements. While the figure, at first glance, seems large, and

### Our National Defense Program

The present strength of the National Guard is 205,000 officers and men, of whom less than 2,000 are colored. These are distressing figures to say the least in view of the fact that unless two bills now pending before the House Military Affairs Committee are passed, it appears that the Negro soldier and

National guardsman will remain an almost unknown quantity in the national defense scheme.

The two bills, it is explained, would assure an increase in colored personnel and its integration into all branches of the military establishment. One would authorize the President to appoint two colored cadets to the West Point Military Academy each year so as to provide competent colored officers. The other bill would prohibit racial discrimination in the Army. Both were introduced by Representative Hamilton Fish, Republican, of New York.

The protective mobilization plan of the War Department calls for an initial force of 400,000 Regular Army and National Guard troops to be augmented with a force of 730,000 men plus 230,000 replacements. While the figure, at first glance, seems large, and

## BUT SUB-COMMITTEE FAILS TO SAFEGUARD RIGHTS OF NEGROES

WASHINGTON, D. C., Mar. 9—Every consideration will be given to suggestions for increase of colored personnel in the Army and its integration into every branch of the Military Establishment, Representative J. Buell Snyder, of Pennsylvania, chairman of the sub-committee of the House appropriations committee in charge of the War Department supply bill, stated during the hearings on that measure. *3-10-39*

### SOUGHT CHANCE, WITHOUT REGARD FOR RACE, COLOR

#### EDGAR BROWN CITES COURIER CAMPAIGN

The remark of Mr. Snyder was made at the close of a statement by Edgar G. Brown, president of the United Government Employees who pleaded with the sub-committee for "a chance for the country's youth regardless of color race or creed."

Mr. Brown asked the sub-committee to write into the War Department appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1940 safeguards such as would require manufacturers selling airplanes and other supplies to the Government "to employ qualified workmen in their plants" without regard to color.

The 1940 War Department appropriation bill carries a contract authorization of \$32,205,988 for new airplanes, their equipment, spare parts and accessories.

#### WROTE NO SAFEGUARD BEFORE REPORTING BILL

Provision is also made in the bill for placing "educational orders" to familiarize private manufacturers with the production of munitions of war of special or technical design and non-commercial in character.

The sub-committee, however, wrote no such safeguard into the bill before favorably reporting it to the House.

Mr. Brown also asked that Congress take such measures as would direct the War Department to reverse its present policy with respect to colored personnel in the Army and give colored youth an opportunity for patriotic service.

Pointing to the athletic prowess of Joe Louis, Jesse Owens, Dick Albritton, Eulace Peacock, Henry Armstrong and John Henry Lewis and the flying ability of the late Bessie Coleman, J. H. Robinson

He pointed out that a newspaper campaign has been waged for the last two years for an increase in colored personnel in the Army and its integration into all branches of the military establishment. "There is no question," he added, "that Negro public opinion is backing up this campaign."

"More graduate officers from West Point has been stressed, increases in the Regular Army, the National Guard, the Reserve Corps, Coast Guard, and other branches of the service which have not been very liberal in their consideration of the patriotism, valor and contribution in sacrifice and blood" of colored people.

He appealed to the sub-committee to approve authorization "for more than the number of soldiers necessary to make up the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry and Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Infantry Regiments."

Precedents for the inclusion of appropriate language in various sections of the bill to effect his suggestions he cited included the law creating the Civilian Conservation Corps and the appropriation for

work relief approved at this session of Congress.

SOLDIERS -1939  
REGIMENTS, REGULAR ARMY

Two Eighth Regiment

Men to Go to Camp

CHICAGO, (AP)—Col. William J. Warfield, commander of the Eighth Regiment, asserted this week that the War Department through Governor Henry Horner had assigned Capt. W. T. Derricks and First Lieut. B. G. Gray to officers training duty at Fort Benning, Ga., beginning February 2.

The regiment had two officers at the school last year, and this is the first time that assignments from the Eighth have not been spaced at three- or four-year intervals.

1/14/39  
Calls for large  
Appropriations  
For Air Corps

Staff Correspondence

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The message of the President recommending an emergency program for the strengthening of the national defense poses the question as to what part colored personnel is to play in preparation for a national emergency.

The program recommended by the President calls for large appropriations for new needs of the Army and the Navy, the preparation and training of industry for war, and for the creation and expansion of naval bases, but the message primarily dealt with military aviation.

In the recommendation for appropriations totaling \$525,000,000 the President earmarked a total of \$321,000,000 for the purchase of several types of airplanes for the Army and the Navy.

Of the total, \$300,000,000 is earmarked for the purchase of at least 3,000 planes for the Army Air Corps, and \$21,000,000 is asked for additional Navy airplanes.

PRIMARY TRAINING  
PROGRAM SOUGHT

The President also suggested the annual training of additional air pilots. In cooperation with educational institutions, he recommended an expenditure of \$10,000,000 a year to give primary training to approximately 20,000 citizens.

Authorizations and appropriations by Congress have provided for the acquisition of aircraft by the Army Air Corps to the extent of 2,320 airplanes. At present the Army has between 1,800 and 2,000 planes. The War Department expects to have on hand at the end of the current fiscal year its present authorized strength of 2,320 planes.

The maximum enlisted strength of the Air Corps was fixed at 18,000 when its aircraft strength was fixed at 1,800 planes. Due to

the larger number of airplanes and the increasing complexity of their design, the last Congress amended existing law so as to allow the allotment to the Air Corps, within the total enlisted strength provided in appropriation for the Regular Army, of 21,500 enlisted men.

The last Congress also increased the authorized commissioned strength of the Air Corps from 1,650 to 2,092 officers. These additional officers will be obtained from West Point graduates, competitive examinations which give priority to the appointment of

Proviso Must Be  
Written In For  
Negro To Benefit

qualified enlisted men, and from men in civil life.

NO COLORED

None of these sources will supply any commissioned colored personnel and colored men are not enlisted in the Army Air Corps. Un- less some provision is written into the bills appropriating funds for ad-

ditional plans and increased personnel for the Air Corps requiring Negroes in the Army and the commissioning and enlistment Navy? Isn't it a fact that the

of a certain number or percentage

European countries have been the

of colored men, they will continue

to object. Does he remem-

to be excluded from that branch of

the service.

Two methods of attacking such

exclusion are available.

One is for Yankees, we would have whipped

before the House appropriations

committee when hearings are held

on the appropriations requested by

the resident in his special message

dark troops to save the white

to appear before the same commit-

tee when hearings are held on the test

barring Negroes from the

regular War Department supply

aviation corp with a frank state-

ment that they will not be per-

mitted because it is contrary to

the resident regarding the train-

the military policy to mix the races

of 20,000 citizens in Army units.

The patriotic sec-

zents for civilian flying, it may be

retary does not know his army.

Howard and Wilberforce Uni-

If he did, he would remove all

planes. he War Department ex-

pecters may be able to induce the white officers and replace them

units at those two institutions.

They are the only colored schools

these officers to command without

authorized strength of 2,320 planes with Reserve Officers' Training

mixing. So why grab at the gan-

der and swallow the gnat?

General Nelson A. Miles said in

1899 during the Philippine Insur-

rection that if they would give

# National Defense Program

## Omits Reference to Race

# "BLACK SOLDIERS BEST IN WORLD," READER DECLARES

To the Editor:

Don't you think it time for the so-called Negro leaders to quit running to the white man falling on their knees and begging? A beggar never receives anything but alms. But most of the leaders are after something for themselves at the expense of the masses. The 10,000 Negro troops, he would Negro's history as a soldier from pacify the Islands in six months, the Revolutionary War to the present time, stands him out as the 'nothing doing.'

bravest and most trusted soldier this nation has ever had. It is famous rough riders and tried to belittle the Negro troops at San Juan, but believe it or not, during the World's war, he didn't call for his "Famous Rough Riders" but petitioned the War Department to

allow him 10,000 troops of Negroes to go to France. He was turned down. He and his bunch had refused Miles. He rode into the White House at the expense of the black man. He aimed to go back a second time through the heroism

of black troops, but failed. I wonder if our Secretary of War and other officials of the national government is interested in our country or in the country of their forefathers?

CHARLES BANKS.

# Bill for Race National Guard Unit Introduced

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Senator W. Warren Barbour, Republican, of New Jersey, introduced in the Senate last week a bill providing for organization of one infantry battalion of Negro troops as a part of the National Guard of New Jersey.

His bill would authorize and direct the Secretary of War to establish, in addition to all other units already established, one infantry battalion of colored troops as a part of the New Jersey National Guard, subject to the provisions of the National Defense Act.

An appropriation of \$25,000 would be made for equipping, maintaining, and training the battalion. Similar bills are pending in the House.

# RACE IGNORED AS HOUSE PUTS OKAY ON PRESIDENT'S NATIONAL DEFENSE BILL

## Increase of Regular Army, National Guard, Expansion of Air Force Provided for Under Same

### Old Jim Crow Setup.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The House last Wednesday by a vote of 367 to 15, passed a bill to carry out the national defense program of the President.

The bill authorizes an increase in the Regular Army from an actual strength of 165,000 more pressing. 3-11-39 to 190,000 officers and men and 210,000 in the National Guard. At present there are less than 4,000 colored men, including only 4 officers, in the Army and less than 2,000 officers and men in the National Guard.

The procurement of approximately 3,032 planes, in addition to those on hand, is authorized. This increase will raise the total in 1941 to approximately 5,500, of which it is contemplated that about 2,100 will be held in reserve, without personnel.

This increase in the number of airplanes will require the training of additional pilots, mechanics, and other specialists. The training facilities of certain accredited civilian aviation schools will be utilized.

The measure carries no provision for an emergency, the protective mobilization prohibiting discrimination by the War Department.

In the course of debate on the War Department measure Representative Walter C. Andrews, Republican, of New York, of 730,000 men plus 230,000 replacements. The Civil Aeronautics Authority completed a list of 11 schools selected to participate in the first phase of the civil aeronautics program under the direction of the War Department. None of them is colored.

### In Army Expansion

#### Hamilton Fish Bills Before Committee

WASHINGTON, D. C. — With the largest War Department appropriation bill in peace-time his pending in Congress, the question of enlargement of the part colored personnel is to have in the protective mobilization plan becomes that the reduction of the mo-

bilization program "to sensible workable proportions to be one of the highest attainments of the War Department" since the World War. Congress is giving consideration to the inclusion of colored personnel into that program.

# Half Billion Dollars Is Set Aside for Army, But No Provision Made for Even One Additional Black Soldier.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—With the largest War Department appropriation bill in peace-time history pending in Congress, the question of enlargement of the part colored personnel is to have in the protective mobilization plan becomes more pressing.

The military appropriation bill for 1940 carries a total of \$499,857,936, representing an increase of \$39,656,682 over current appropriations. The bill includes a supplemental estimate of \$50,000,000 for airplanes. This amount is to be made immediately available.

Provision is made for 456 additional officers. The present commissioned strength is 12,760 officers, of whom only four are colored. No increase is recommended in the enlisted personnel of 165,000, of whom less than 4,000 are colored.

Pay of the National Guard covers

an increase of 5,000 men. Its present strength is 205,000 officers and men, of whom less than 2,000 are colored.

In the event of a national emergency, the protective mobilization

prohibiting discrimination by the War Department.

Appearing before the House Ap-

propriations Committee, Secretary

of War Harry W. Woodring de-

clared that the reduction of the

obilization program "to sensible

workable proportions to be one of

the highest attainments of the War

partment since the World War."

gress is giving consideration to

the inclusion of colored personnel

into that program.

#### FISH BILLS WILL ASSURE INCREASE

Two bills pending before the House Military Affairs Committee would assure an increase in colored personnel and its integration into all branches of the military establishment. One would authorize the President to appoint two colored cadets to West Point each year so as to provide colored officers. The other would prohibit racial discrimination in the Army. They were introduced by Representative Hamilton Fish, Republican, of New York.

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